



The Brooklyn Paper

Brooklyn's Real Newspaper

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BROOKLYN HEIGHTS-DOWNTOWN EDITION
INCLUDING DUMBO

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Marty casts his line for Nordstrom

Beep wants Dallas retailer in borough

By Ariella Cohen
The Brooklyn Paper

The borough president who helped bring Trader Joe's to Atlantic Avenue has set his sights on a new upscale target — a Nordstrom department store.

"Now that [Trader Joe's] is done, we can go to the next one," Borough President Markowitz told The Brooklyn Paper several days after leading a jubilant parade from Borough Hall to the Court Street bank building, where the gourmet grocer is setting up its first Kings County store.

"Nordstrom would be awesome in Brooklyn. Now we have Trader Joe's, Ikea, Whole Foods and all the other great retailers. That would complete it," Markowitz said, still exuberant from his Joe's victory lap.

The beep said he spent several years working to get the California-based purveyor of wasabi hummus and chicken dumplings to the corner of Court Street and Atlantic Avenue before last week's announcement.

"My mother and father-in-law, Joan and Jules Snow, would go to the Nesau County store and come back with chips and spreads that they couldn't wait to bring out and show me," he said. "I found out about Trader Joe's and I started pitching," he said.

Developer Jed Valentini of Two Trees Management said Markowitz "came to us probably four years ago and said that Trader Joe's needed a home. When the bank building came up, we called him back."

"Other officials asked for other things, [Councilman] Bill DeBlasio asked [for] affordable housing there," continued Valentini. "[Markowitz] recognized, smartly, that there would be a need for a grocery store, and in particular, a Trader Joe's."

Nordstrom does not have a New York City location. Most of the company's stores — with their live pianists and mumbled —

nouncement.

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See **MARTY** on page 16



Barack Obama came ...

BARACK AND ROLL

Obamamania hits Brooklyn Heights

By Dana Rubinstein
The Brooklyn Paper

A confident Barack Obama strolled into Brooklyn Heights on Tuesday night and promptly declared the Hillary Clinton stronghold "Obama territory."

Clinton far outpaced Obama in the fundraising race in the Borough of Kings, hauling in \$423,740 in Brooklyn last quarter, in contrast to his \$220,456 — and Brooklyn Heights as The Brooklyn Paper reported last week, is especially Hill Country, raising \$61,360 for Clinton compared to Obama's \$38,724.

But that didn't stop the junior senator from Illinois from hitting up the locals for cash.

"Every place is Obama territory," he said with a rakish smile before ascending into a ... he shook ...

Columbia Heights brownstone for the "\$1,000 minimum contribution" fundraiser.

Organizers of the big-ticket house party — believed to be Obama's first in Brooklyn — tried to keep the event hush-hush. But it was clear that something unusual was afoot at Nina Collins's Columbia Heights mansion.

By 7 pm, Town Cars began pulling up to the three-story brownstone, spilling out expensive-looking men and women — a surprisingly high number of them alone and enamored of Obama.

"He's my TV boyfriend," said a Brooklyn Heights resident, who gave only the name Daphne.

"You know that movie, 'Jerry McGuire,' when Renee Zellweger's character says, 'You had



... he smiled before Tuesday's Heights fundraiser.

See **BARACK** on p 16

Snapping shots in the cemetery, naked

By Christopher Murray
for The Brooklyn Paper

Apparently nobody told Santiago Infantino that the dress code for at Green-Wood Cemetery is somber. In fact, the Fort Greene-based photographer follows no dress code at all when he's working on his latest series of anti-war artworks.

"Being naked means being defenseless and this was a desperate time," Infantino said. "That's why I choose the

cemetery. [I was] thinking about the people who are gone — were they in a better place than I was?"

The artist claims he doesn't have a compulsive desire to strip for the departed, despite how his recent self-portrait, "Apocalypse," makes it appear. (See it online at www.santiagoinfantino.com.)

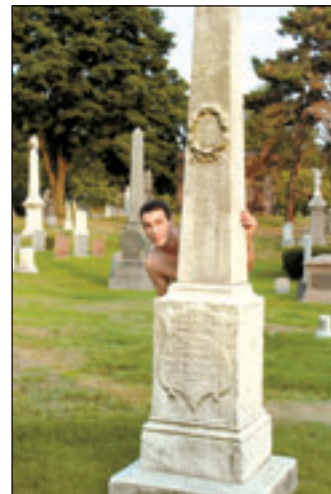
It's hard enough just getting the work done. Lugging his tripod, camera and various props to the boneyard after

hours, Infantino hunts for the perfect spot and, after checking for security, takes off all of his clothes.

"I covered myself with a big cape and waited until it was safe," he said, "then whipped [it] off and started shooting."

While he had, Infantino wasn't spooked by the cemetery's residents at all.

"I was scared I would get caught, but not scared to be naked at the cemetery. I'm scared of the living, not the dead."



Artist Santiago Infantino makes an art of taking pictures of himself, naked, in cemeteries. So The Brooklyn Paper took this picture of Infantino, naked, in a cemetery.



Delia Levy saddles Sign Me Up as construction crews work on a condo across the street, which is, ironically, on the site of a former stable.

Horses: 'Neigh!' to development

By Chris Cascarano
for The Brooklyn Paper

Horses at a beloved stable and riding academy in Kensington are going increasingly skittish, thanks to the construction of an apartment building next door.

"The noise is causing the horses a lot of stress," said Walker Blankinship, the owner of Kensington Stables, on Caton Place. "Sometimes I have to coax them out of the stable."

On some days, the noise from the Caton Place construction site is so bad that stablehands don't bother to even bring the horses out for rides, let alone of them lose a young rider.

On a recent Friday, trucks bearing large shipments of building materials blocked both Caton Place and East Eighth Street for more than an hour. Stable workers tried to bring out several horses during that time, but were

forced to turn away several would-be customers, including a 5-year-old hoping for a pony ride.

The apartment building, Caton on the Park, is across East Eighth Street from the 77-year-old stable. It will rise eight stories and contain 107 units.

The development was approved by the city despite a rejection from the local community board in November 2005 on the grounds that construction would disrupt not just horses, but people, too.

The board vote, apparently, was prescient. "The noise is going to go on for years," said Warren Shaw, who lives next door. "It is going to be four of five years until construction is complete."

It's not the first time that development and traffic have invaded on Brooklyn's own little piece of country living. Two new megachurches in the area have greatly increased

See **HORSES** on page 6

Plenty of traffic in race for Boro Prez

By Gersh Kuntzman
The Brooklyn Paper

Councilman Charles Barron made it official this week: he's not running for Congress next year because he wants some real power — he wants to be (drumroll) Borough President!

"We looked at the 2008 Congressional race [against reportedly retiring Rep. Ed Towns] and thought we could win it," Barron told The Brooklyn Paper before throwing his Nehru jacket in the ring for the top borough job at a press conference on Sunday at City Hall.

"But being in Congress would take me out of the city four days a week and put me in Washington as one of 435 legislators with little or no influence."

"It would take me years to get something for the neighborhood," added Barron, the Cause Democrat who notched 40 percent of the vote in a three-way race for Towns's seat last year, despite raising only \$109,000. "In Congress, I'd be a national voice, of course, but I wouldn't be able to help the people of our borough."

But as borough president? The possibilities are endless, apparently.

"I can have eight years as the first black borough president, administering a



capital budget and an expense budget. And it's a good jump-off point for the mayoral race in 2017."

Yes, you heard it here first, Charles Barron is running for mayor in 10 years.

Not that he doesn't have his priorities straight for his planned eight-year reign at Borough Hall.

"Am I gonna be a borough president for all the people? Absolutely," he said at the press conference. "But I'm letting you all know now: I'm taking care of black folk."

Such talk is certainly par for Barron's course. Last month, he made headlines after his chief of staff targeted several black colleagues with "assassination" after they rejected a plan to rename part of Fulton Street for flame-throwing black activist Sonny Carson. The aide, Viola Plummer, said she was only referring to "political" assassination, but was fired by Council Speaker Christine Quinn anyway.

Barron said Quinn fired his top aide simply to "show the whites in town that she still controls this plantation and if any one of us speaks out, we will be punished."

The kickoff announcement wasn't all about race, of course. Barron, a staunch

See **BEEPS** on page 16

Zanes traffic jam

It was practically a kiddie Woodstock at Dan Zanes's packed concert at the Prospect Park bandshell on Sunday night — complete with a Park Slope traffic jam (below). The Cobble Hill rocker — former frontman for the Del Fuegos before he reclaimed kids music from Yanni — played some of his big hits and earned applause every time he mentioned the F train (which was repeatedly). Tout le monde was on hand, including Boerum Hill mommy Michelle Williams, traffic activist Aaron Naparstek, and hot dog contest MC George Shea, and everyone left the "Celebrate Brooklyn" concert with a coupon for 20 percent off his next Zanes purchase. Talk about a win-win in Park Slope.



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WHERE TO

EDITORS' PICKS

SATURDAY July 28

High 'Society'

Tonight at Cha Cha's in Coney Island, Brooklyn's favorite klezmer punk band, the World Inferno Friendship Society, will rock the boardwalk. The over-sized band will fit right in since they've already got a sideshow vibe going on — but we think they should recruit insects to play tambourine.

7 pm at Cha Cha's (on the Boardwalk near Stillwell Avenue in Coney Island). \$20. For information, call (718) 946-1305.

SUNDAY July 29

Big dig

We think that the York Street station is woefully in need of an update, but this afternoon you can tour the Atlantic Avenue Tunnel, the abandoned railroad tunnel that tour guide Bob Diamond calls "the world's oldest subway." Sure, it was sealed up years ago, but it's probably easier to get out of than our F train stop.

11 am, 1 pm at Court Street and Atlantic Avenue. \$15. For information, call (718) 941-3160.



MONDAY July 30

Drawn out

Check out the last day of the four-day Animation Block Party, which descends upon Brooklyn each July to screen more than 100 independent animated films. Tonight 17 films will be shown, followed by an afterparty across the street at Mullane's Bar which, along with everything else, is sure to be animated.

6:50 pm at BAM/Cinematek (30 Lafayette Ave. at Ashland Place in Fort Greene). \$11. For information, call (718) 636-4100 or visit www.animationblock.com.

TUESDAY July 31

Home 'Repo'

There was a time, believe it or not, when Paula Abdul's ex-husband Emilio Estevez was a big movie star. Tonight, one of his best flicks, 1984's cult classic "Repo Man," is screening at McCarren Pool. The movie's great, but the hard cement of the pool can be a buzzkill, so bring a blanket to keep yourself comfortable.

8 pm at McCarren Park Pool (Lorimer and Bayard streets in Williamsburg). Free. For information, visit www.summerscreen.org.



WEDNESDAY August 1

Kvelling for Kweller

Mop-topped indie rocker Ben Kweller finishes off a three-night stint at Southpaw, playing all the way through one of his records each night. But if the crowds are too much, pick up a copy at Music Matters and listen anywhere you want.

8 pm at Southpaw (125 Fifth Ave. between Sterling and St. John's places in Park Slope). \$20. For information, call (718) 230-0236 or visit www.spsounds.com.

NINE DAYS IN BROOKLYN

Compiled by Susan Rosenthal Jay

SAT, JULY 28

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

BIRD WALK: at the Prospect Park Audubon Center 9 am to 10 am. Enter park at Lincoln Road and Ocean Avenue. (718) 287-3400. Free.

EARLY MORNING BRIDING: Discovery walk through the Salt Marsh of Gentien Creek, 8 am. Salt Marsh Center, 3302 Avenue U. Call 311 and ask for the Urban Park Rangers.

CYPRESS HILLS WALKING TOUR: of Cypress Hills and Highland Park with a guide. See civic buildings, grand mansions, row houses and churches. \$13. \$10 members, \$8 seniors and students with ID. 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. Meet in the assembly room in the Broadway Junction train station. (718) 788-8500 ext. 208.

PEDAL BOATING: Cruise Brooklyn's freshwater lake in a pedal boat. \$15 for one hour, plus \$10 refundable deposit. Noon to 5 pm. Enter Prospect Park near the Parkside and Ocean Avenue entrance. www.prospectpark.org

LULLWATER EXPLORATION: Enjoy a boat tour detailing Prospect Park's aquatic habitat. Binoculars provided. \$10. \$6 kids. Noon to 12:45 pm. Enter park at Lincoln Road and Ocean Avenue. (718) 287-3400.

PERFORMANCE

FORT GREENE MUSIC FEST: Day-long event. Located between DeKalb and Myrtle Avenues on Washington Park. (718) 222-1441. Free.

WEEKSVILLE SUMMER SERIES: Steppin' in Rhythm presents David Gilmore, a 1968 Bergen St., between Rochester and Buffalo Avenues. (718) 754-5250. Free.

SUNSET MUSIC: The Frank Moray Band performs during the 12th annual series hosted by the Waterfront Museum and Showboat Barge. Also, Modern Man. \$10. \$8 kids ages 12 and younger. \$8 adults. \$6 kids ages 2 and under. In advance. Doors open at 7:30 pm. The foot of Conover Street. Red Hook. (877) 238-5596.

BARGE MUSIC: Burnt at noon features Mozart piano and violin sonatas. Wine, cookies, pastries and crackers served. 5 pm at 1. Call for ticket info. Also, classical music series presents featuring works of Beethoven. \$35. \$30 seniors \$20 students. 8 pm. Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street at the East River. (718) 624-2053.

GALLERY PLAYERS: Teenagers perform Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet." \$10. 8 pm. 199 14th St., between Fourth and Fifth avenues. (718) 396-0547.

OTHER

WEEKSVILLE FARMERS MARKET: Farm-fresh produce. Cooking demonstrations by Melissa Allen of Just Food. 9 am to 1 pm. 1698 Bergen St., between Rochester and Buffalo avenues. Sorry, no contact phone number.

INDIE MARKET: Collectors of Brooklyn-based emerging designers show their wares of fashion, accessories, bath and beauty, pet gear, home goods and more. 11 am to 7 pm. Smith and Union streets. www.brooklynindiemarket.com.

RED HOOK ART SHOW: Brooklyn Waterfront Artists Coalition presents its "Really Big Art Show," featuring works of 200+ exhibitors. Today, opening day celebration, meet the artists reception and music with Ray Rivera. 1 pm to 6 pm. Red Hook Pier, 499 Van Brunt St. (718) 596-2507. Free.

ARM WRESTLING: NY Arm Wrestling Association hosts "Battle Brooklyn: Strongest Arm." \$15 for professionals. \$30 for professionals. Competition begins at 1:30 pm. Final matches take place from 5 pm to 7 pm.

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Get the blues: On Aug. 2, Eric Roberson will join Chrissette Michelle for a concert at the annual R&B music festival at Metrotech.

5:50 pm, in front of Brooklyn Cyclones base, Keystone Park, 1004 Surf Ave. (718) 544-4592.

CRIME FICTION READING: Freeheld Books and Goodreads hosts Hard Case Crime reading, a poly style of the 1960s and 80s. 5 pm. 123 Columbia St. (718) 643-8484. Free.

BEACH PARTY ADVENTURE: Chu Cha's hosts a performance by World Inferno Friendship Society. \$20. Doors open at 7 pm. Coney Island Boardwalk, near Stillwell Avenue. (718) 946-1305.

SINGLES CONCERT: Jerry Rose hosts "3 Jazz and Blues Acts at 2 or 3 Clubs." \$20 in-

cludes admission; one drink minimum. Ages 20 and over. Email jerry128@msn.com.

SUN, JULY 29

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

GRAND ARMY PLAZA WALK: Brooklyn's Caribbean Plaza Urban Environment hosts a tour of Grand Army Plaza. Matt Postal leads. Discover the history of the plaza, from the creation of Prospect Park and Eastern Parkway to the present day. \$13. \$10 members. \$8 seniors and students.

CIVIC CALENDAR

SUNDAY, JULY 29

Beach Party for Love and Marriage Equality: Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture (53 Prospect Park West, between First and Second streets). 2:30-4:30 pm. Adults \$15 advance, \$20 door; kids any donation. Cost includes free barbeque and cash bar. RSVP to loveandequality@gmail.com or www.bsoc.org/loveandequality.

MONDAY, JULY 30

Community Board 6 Landmarks/Land use committee: Agenda: discussion of

Gowanus Canal corridor with City Planning representatives. 2:50-3:15 p.m. between Court and Clinton streets. 4 pm.

TUESDAY, JULY 31

78th Precinct Community Council: 78th precinct stationhouse (65 Smith Ave., at Bergen Street). 7:30 pm. Call (718) 626-6410.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 2

Friends of Carroll Park: The Park House (at Smith and Carroll streets). 7:30 pm. Call (718) 626-6271.

To list an event in the Civic Calendar, e-mail newsroom@brooklynpaper.com or fax (718) 834-9378.

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SOUTHERN AND EASTERN BROOKLYN Brooklyn View (published independently).

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See 9 DAYS on page 11

THE STOOP

BROOKLYN HEIGHTS-DOWNTOWN DUMBO

A tree falls in Brooklyn

Several residents of a Brooklyn Heights building say they'll chain themselves to an 80-year-old elm before they'll let their co-op board cut down the historic tree.

It's the latest salvo in an ongoing battle that appeared to reach its climax on July 18, when the co-op board at Mansion House, at 145 Hicks St., voted 5-2 (in private) to cut down the tree rather than spend \$8,000 to reroute electrical pipes that were caught in the path of the tree's extensive root system.

On Monday, the board will hold an open meeting to discuss its ruling, and residents expect it to get ugly. One shareholder said five or six residents have already agreed to chain themselves to the tree to prevent its removal. "I'm not sure [the board] would like to see that," the shareholder said. "Especially when the New York Times ... shows up."

Andrea Demetropoulos, one of two board members who voted to save the tree, said the board is framing the elm as a potential liability. Even though an arboricultural expert concluded that the elm is in good health, trees do require regular maintenance.

But that's peanuts compared to what the building is spending on the current renovation project, Demetropoulos said. Costs soared from \$150,000 to \$400,000, and the co-op board wants to stop the bleeding.

The tree was a convenient patsy. Demetropoulos said some of her fellow board members claimed that tree could someday injure someone — a fallacy, she believes.

"An air conditioner could fall out of a window and hit someone," she said. But Demetropoulos lost — this round.

The decision enraged some residents, including 25-year tenant Allen Kraus, who has started organizing residents to attend Monday's meeting in hopes of blocking the decision.

"It's worth [fighting] to save this tree," said Kraus. "We need to be creative."

Neighbor Kathy Duncan agrees. "If there's an alternative, those alternatives should be explored. It shouldn't be a financial issue or a convenience issue."

As reported here two weeks ago ("Burglary string has Main Street in DUMBO," July 14), there have been a number of office-building robberies in the area — and the cops are still at large.

As a result, cops from the 84th Precinct — as well as extras brought in from Williamsburg's 90th Precinct — have been making extra patrols, both on foot and in radio cars, since the mini-crime spree began.

It is unclear how many break-ins have occurred in the former warehouses — now office buildings — in the rapidly developing neighborhood.

There were at least two break-ins on June 30 at 45 Main St. — both featuring a burglar who busted a hole through Sheetrock to rob a photographer and a law firm. Two weeks later, there was a similar robbery attempt at nearby 55 Washington St., where an employee of a seventh-floor design studio said he heard heard a noise in the hallway and discovered a man crouched near the wall using a hammer to smash into the office.

When the employee asked what he was doing, he muttered something about "the wrong office" and left in a hurry.

A thief also hit a Jay Street building in early July, making off with a business's computers and cameras, according to Curbed.com.

The same blog reported that last week the police arrested a man who was allegedly involved in robbing 12 cars and 14 offices in the last few months, but he was released due to lack of evidence.

Captain Alan Abel, commander of the 84th Precinct, which includes DUMBO, Downtown, Brooklyn Heights, and part of Boerum Hill, said he would not comment on an "Internet rumor."

But Abel did say that he's increased the number of officers on patrol in DUMBO — and locals have noticed.

"I've seen more cops, definitely," said Abraham Burgess, who works at Retreat, a local coffee shop.

A spokesman for Two Trees Management, the neighborhood's principal landowner, said there are plans "to install increased security measures on all Two Trees buildings in DUMBO," although the spokesman, Brad Eide, would not say what those measures would be.

Crime has been increasing not only in DUMBO, but throughout the 84th precinct. Burglary is up 23 percent compared to last year, and assault has risen 31 percent, although both numbers remain lower than they were six years ago.

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A RIVER RUNS THROUGH IT

The Brooklyn Paper

The near-biblical flooding that made the north end of the recently renovated Cadman Plaza Park impossible last week was due to backed-up catch basins, according to a city official — an ongoing problem that makes walking through the park treacherous whenever it rains.

"The rest of the park is really nice, but this area is terrible," said Deana Giordano, who had just climbed around the puddle by grabbing onto a nearby fence. "It's a real inconvenience."

But Giordano's puddle-hopping on Monday afternoon was a walk in the park compared to last Wednesday's torrential rains, which transformed the greenspace into an archipelago of grassy islands separated by fast-moving waterways.

"It was an absolute nightmare," recalled one witness to the scene.

"If you wanted to cross the street and the park to get into DUMBO, you had to walk through a river. My feet and my pants were soaked."

The Parks Department, which recently completed a \$2.9-million renovation of the south end of the park, told The Stoop that the flooding was "a drainage issue, but it didn't emanate from the park."

"Several catch-basins clogged near the post office on Johnson Street, which caused flooding in the vicinity," said Phil Abramson, a Parks spokesman.

"We're working with the Department of Environmental Protection to resolve drainage issues that affect the park," he added.

— Dave Rubinstein and Chris Casarano



A man maneuvers around a huge puddle in Cadman Plaza Park on Monday.

Cops target DUMBO crime

By Harry Chaele

The Brooklyn Paper

Peaceful DUMBO was crawling with cops this week in an effort to stop a mini-crime wave that has swept the usually quiet area between the Manhattan and Brooklyn bridges.

As reported here two weeks ago ("Burglary string has Main Street in DUMBO," July 14), there have been a number of office-building robberies in the area — and the cops are still at large.

As a result, cops from the 84th Precinct — as well as extras brought in from Williamsburg's 90th Precinct — have been making extra patrols, both on foot and in radio cars, since the mini-crime spree began.

It is unclear how many break-ins have occurred in the former warehouses — now office buildings — in the rapidly developing neighborhood.

There were at least two break-ins on June 30 at 45 Main St. — both featuring a burglar who busted a hole through Sheetrock to rob a photographer and a law firm. Two weeks later, there was a similar robbery attempt at nearby 55 Washington St., where an employee of a seventh-floor design studio said he heard heard a noise in the hallway and discovered a man crouched near the wall using a hammer to smash into the office.

When the employee asked what he was doing, he muttered something about "the wrong office" and left in a hurry.

A thief also hit a Jay Street building in early July, making off with a business's computers and cameras, according to Curbed.com.

The same blog reported that last week the police arrested a man who was allegedly involved in robbing 12 cars and 14 offices in the last few months, but he was released due to lack of evidence.

Captain Alan Abel, commander of the 84th Precinct, which includes DUMBO, Downtown, Brooklyn Heights, and part of Boerum Hill, said he would not comment on an "Internet rumor."

But Abel did say that he's increased the number of officers on patrol in DUMBO — and locals have noticed.

"I've seen more cops, definitely," said Abraham Burgess, who works at Retreat, a local coffee shop.

A spokesman for Two Trees Management, the neighborhood's principal landowner, said there are plans "to install increased security measures on all Two Trees buildings in DUMBO," although the spokesman, Brad Eide, would not say what those measures would be.

Crime has been increasing not only in DUMBO, but throughout the 84th precinct. Burglary is up 23 percent compared to last year, and assault has risen 31 percent, although both numbers remain lower than they were six years ago.

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ON OUR OTHER PAGES

- PARK SLOPE** Bike lane sequence
- RED HOOK** New pier deal
- FORT GREENE** Super shutterbug
- WILMINGTON** Sugar's second story

online at BrooklynPaper.com

friend. The canopy itself deflects water away from the side of the building and lowers air-conditioning bills. Its roots keep water from pooling in the garden. And nothing's better at oxygen-creation.

No less an authority than Mayor Bloomberg's 2006 citywide tree census said such trees should be preserved. "Canopy trees confer the most benefits and we need to continue to focus on planting large tree species that will successfully mature." A full-grown, healthy tree reduces about 70 times the amount of air pollution than a sapling.

But the tree's value extends beyond our physical and environmental health. To save some money, the co-op board is also ripping out historic roots that connect us to the shade our grandparents once enjoyed.

Phyllis Dicker, a board member who voted to remove the tree, called the decision "a private matter between the board members and the shareholders."

But is it? This 75-foot tree shades a wide area in and beyond the courtyard of the Mansion House. Too bad the co-op board's thinking doesn't stretch any further than that.

Juliana Bunim is a writer who lives in Brooklyn Heights

THE KITCHEN SINK

Last week, it was still unclear where the proposed DUMBO post office will go, but a likely candidate has emerged: **Shaya Boyimelgreen's Beacon Tower** at 85 Adams St. According to the rental agent, our pal **Elliot Bogod**, negotiations with the USPS are going on right now. ... The **Heights Players** just announced its schedule for the 2007-08 season. Nine productions will run from September to May starting with Neil Simon's "God's Favorite." ... Writer outtakes writer: Brooklyn author and amateur pugilist **Jonathan "Herring Wonder" Ames** scored a stunning win in his **Gleason's Gym** match against fellow author **Craig "Crappier" Davidson**. A Sink spy spotted Grammy-award-winning rocker Fiona Apple helping to heal Ames's wounds at a post-win party. Don King was not in attendance.

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Coffee clashes at popular chain

By Chris Cascarano
for The Brooklyn Paper

84th Precinct

Two women were pick-pocketed at two franchises of the same coffee chain within 30 minutes of each other on July 21. The first incident occurred at 11:30 a.m. at the shop on Court at Joralemon streets, where a 48-year-old woman's wallet disappeared shortly after buying coffee. The woman lost \$140 in cash, ID and credit cards.

A similar, but more blatant, theft occurred at noon, at the coffee

POLICE BLOTTER

Car dewilded

Thieves broke into a Nissan Pathfinder parked on Degraw Street between Court and Smith streets, stealing more than \$21,000 in jewelry on July 17, police said.

The jewelry robbers broke through a window to steal three platinum wedding rings worth \$17,000 in total, a Movado watch and an 18-carat gold necklace and bracelet set in the 10 a.m. heist.

The jewels belonged to the car's 37-year-old owner, who had them stashed in a make-up case.

Police believe that a camera at a store caught the caper, but the tape has not yet been retrieved.

76th Precinct

Don't compute

A 23-year-old man returned to his Court Street apartment on July 12 to find his room a mess and his tech gear gone, police said.

A thief had climbed up a fire escape to break into the man's apartment, which is near Ninth Street.

After ransacking the apartment, he left with a \$300 digital camera and \$1,500 laptop. The break-in happened during daylight hours, police said.

Teen robbed

Three thugs robbed a 13-year-old boy walking on Second Place near Henry Street on July 16 at 3:20 p.m., police said.

The hoodlums approached the kid from behind, and one asked, "You got any money?"

When the younger boy shrugged, another thug told him to empty his pockets.

The boy took out a blue flip phone and handed it to the teens.

Foul find

A foul smell led police to find a dead woman in her apartment

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88th Precinct

Nightmare

A garage owner was brutally beaten — first with a baseball bat and a handgun, and later burned with a lighter — just as he was closing his Clinton Avenue parking lot for the night on July 15.

The man, whose garage is between Fulton Street and Atlantic Avenue, was overwhelmed by three men, who forced their way inside, shouting "Where's the money?"

The trio beat the victim with the bat and gun, knocking him to the floor and binding his hands and legs with duct tape.

Next, they cut his back, burned his hand with a lighter, and poured gasoline on him — the precursor to an interrogation about where he lived and what he had in his house.

The brutality ended at 3:30 a.m., when the thugs left with an undisclosed amount of cash, his

keys, and his wallet.

His problems didn't even end there. By the time the victim freed himself from the duct tape and called cops, he was told that his Maywood, New Jersey home had already been burglarized, presumably by the same thugs who held him hostage.

Youth gone bad

After the teen banties back in action?

A trio of 14- to 16-year-old girls attacked a 15-year-old on July 19 as he approached his home on Navy Walk at around 8:30 p.m.

The attack was eerily similar to a kiddie crime wave that was reported in these pages two months ago.

When the victim got near Tillary Street, the girls pounced, knocking him to the ground, kicking him in the face, and beating him with a blunt object. Their motivation was unclear, although the teen knew one of his attackers.

Hours later and a few blocks away, a similar attack occurred. On Park and North Portland avenues around 2 p.m., a 16-year-old boy was walking home when three unknown teens grabbed him, beat him up, and took his cellphone before fleeing.

Collateral damage

A man who was standing on the corner of Grand and Flushing avenues at around 10 p.m. on July 19 was hit in the back of the head by a bullet fragment, cops said.

But further investigation revealed that the 34-year-old man was wanted on several warrants, and the cops arrested him.

Small-change

A man's apartment was ransacked on July 16, but he didn't have much worth taking.

The victim had left his Seaboard Street building around 12:30 p.m. and came back two and a half hours later to find that the front door was broken and his apartment had been turned upside-down.

All he could find missing from the unit, which is near Park Avenue, was \$5 in small change.

Live-in dispute

A woman beat her roommate senseless with a telephone during an argument inside their Tillary Street apartment on July 17.

According to cops, a 21-year-old woman beat a 53-year-old woman, sending her to the hospital with cuts on her head.

Cops later collared the suspect near their apartment, which is near Prince Street, and charged her with assault in the 1 p.m. attack.

Civic minded

A thief simply had to have a man's 15-year-old Honda Civic.

The victim parked the red 1992 car on Carlton Avenue between Lafayette and Green avenues around 8 p.m. on July 16 — but when he came back at 9 the next morning, the Civic, with a Blue Book value of less than the value of a Blue Book, had vanished.

Self defense

A mugger picked the wrong person to try to rob on July 17.

The would-be victim was walking down Lexington Avenue near Clason Avenue around 3:30 when the robber snatched up behind him and punched him in the

face. The perp tried to grab the man's cellphone, but despite the element of surprise and the mugger's size — 6-foot-1, 210 pounds — the man was able to fight his assailant off, and the crook ran away empty-handed.

Cleaned out!

Burglars made off with \$35,000 in cash, phone cards and smokes from a convenience store on July 17, cops said.

The owner of the store, which is on DeKalb and Vanderbilt avenues, discovered the dastardly deed when he showed up to open the store around 7 a.m. the following morning. He found a mess: his cash register and ATM had both been busted open and \$24,000 had been taken; nearly \$7,000 in Metrocards and phone cards were gone; and \$4,000 in cigarettes had been pilfered.

The thieves probably came in through the back wall, cops said.

Blue bandit

A monochromatic marmalade robbed a 43-year-old man at gunpoint on Clinton Street on July 9, police said.

The robber, dressed in blue and wielding a gun, pushed his victim onto the street near the corner of Mill Street, and pulled out his weapon at around 7 a.m. When a second man approached with a knife, the pedestrian gave up a money order worth \$200.

Bad for health

Some people really don't want their friends to smoke.

A woman who disapproved of her acquaintance buying cigarettes instead of spending the money on her kids took action on July 22. After the nicotine fiend bought pack around 5 p.m. at a bodega on Tillary Street near Prince Street, her friend hit her in the head with her car keys, causing injuries bad enough to send the victim to the hospital.

Cops picked up the non-smoking suspect and charged her with assault.

— with Harry Chodles and Ariella Cohen

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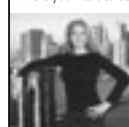
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THE STOOOP

CARROLL GARDENS-COBBLE HILL BOERUM HILL RED HOOK

Dad feels like Trader (Joe's)

Everybody loves Trader Joe's. This is the upshot of what I have heard over and over in the weeks since the California-based grocer announced that it would open this year on the corner of Atlantic Avenue and Court Street in Cobble Hill.

Last Saturday, I decided to find out for myself exactly what makes the chain so alluring, so different than, well, any other grocery chain.

I went on the investigative mission with Dad, a loyalist of the store who is fond of saying that his Hawaiian-slanted clerks are the only corporate wage-earners in his life that have never done anything to make him distrust them.

We arrived at the suburban Long Island store 24 hours before a high-anxiety family barbecue. Lucky for him, the trip was easy on the nerves, and we arrived home laden with ground meat, burger buns, soda and the requisite crunchy, pseudo-healthy snack items for which Trader Joe's is known.

The trip was a success. We got what we needed and got out, headache-less and only negligibly poorer. A clerk further enamored my father by telling him, quite randomly, that he didn't believe that Lee Harvey Oswald had killed John F. Kennedy.

"Clearly a set-up," the clerk said, pouring my dad a shot-sized sample of the store's fair-trade coffee.

People love to shop for groceries. Even children love it. I remember going over coupons that came stuck in the Sunday newspaper, knowing that if I just found the 50-cent-off coupon for Special K, I could wrangle a brand-name breakfast out of my budget-minded mom.

Trader Joe's summons up that feeling in me. It's a kind of shopping that can make you feel like you are saving money at the same time as you are spending it. Better yet, at Trader Joe's even the hamburger buns are labeled organic.

There is also the illusion of choice. Supermarkets display myriad versions of the same product. In retrospect, it was that illusion that made those Value Shopping trips so exciting to that dependent, minor me.

The difference now is we're the adults paying for that box of Special K, coupon or no coupon. Well, unless Dad comes along. So having a Trader Joe's in Brooklyn is good for another thing: family bonding.

Ariella Cohen is a staff reporter at The Brooklyn Paper

THE KITCHEN SINK

Farmer's delight: The new **Carroll Gardens Greenmarket** is in full bloom Sundays at **Carroll Park** along Carroll Street between Court and Smith Streets. The blueberries are sweet and so are the bouquets of wildflowers — but only through November. ... Also newly landed in Carroll Gardens is a long-awaited messenger pigeon! A mobile post office will make a weekly stop in front of the **Eileen Dugan Senior Center** at 380 Court St., between President and Carroll streets. The ice-cream-truck-style post office will be parked there each Tuesday from 10:30 am to 2:30 pm. ... Our pal **Terry Mangrum**, owner of **Naidie's** cafe, is eyeing a **Van Brunt Street** storefront for a Red Hook satellite of her cafe chain, which has locations on Seventh Avenue in Park Slope and another on Henry Street in Carroll Gardens. The new Naidie's would be Hook-bom **Baked** cafe's first rival for control of the growing neighborhood's caffeine addicts. ... Remember how community groups have been forced to pay for professional analysis of the plans the city makes for their neighborhoods? Well, now our pals at **Community Board 6** want you to ask Gov. Spitzer to approve new legislation that would give the city's neighborhood planning boards the ability to compete for state planning grants. E-mail the governor at <http://61.111.121.121/govemail>, or call his office at (518) 474-8390 and tell him what you think. **E-mail us at Stoop@BrooklynPaper.com**

Port operator on Hook

City backing off from plan to evict longshoremen

By Ariella Cohen

The Brooklyn Paper

City officials are on the brink of rolling out a new development plan for the Red Hook waterfront — a move that is expected to keep cargo ships on the piers and scuttle a plan to expand the Brooklyn cruise ship terminal, borough officials said this week.

"We are in serious negotiations and positions are changing," said one source involved in talks with the Economic Development Corporation.

The new plan would end years of lobby-

ing by American Stevedoring Inc., the current operator of the Red Hook Container Terminal, which was slated to be evicted to make room for an expanded ship terminal, plus a factory and beer garden for the Brooklyn Brewery and other retail and maritime attractions.

The tourist-friendly redevelopment was part of Mayor Bloomberg's larger vision of a "Harbor District" of waterfront parks. But port advocates have argued — apparently successfully — that the plan would lead to luxury residential development on Brooklyn's last working waterfront.

"There has been a shift," said Councilman David Yassky (D-Brooklyn Heights). This week, Yassky took advantage of the city pullback to submit a resolution demanding a long-term lease for ASI, a well-connected company whose executives donate tens of thousands of dollars to local candidates.

Evicting ASI would have meant years of

legal challenges for the city and the Port Authority, both of which have gone up against the company in court before.

"It is a powerful company with money to do battle," said one insider who worked with ASI lawyers to stop the residential conversion of the two six-story left buildings overlooking the port on Inlay Street.

Those massive white buildings remain vacant today, a victory for ASI, but of little value to a borough starved for housing.

Also left hanging by ASI's latest victory is Steve Hindy, president of Brooklyn Brewery, who now says he will consider relocating to a city-owned lot along the Gowanus Canal rather than continue his Red Hook dream.

"I have a limited time before my lease expires in Williamsburg and so I have to look at my options," he said. "Red Hook is still the most attractive location for Brooklyn Brewery because of the incredible location, but there are other places."

Crab man's arty grab bag

By Ariella Cohen

The Brooklyn Paper

Two stories above the frozen fish and live crustaceans of the Red Hook Fairway, a man who has spent his adult life pursuing the Alaska King Crab has opened a gallery for the art he fell in love while at sea.

Look North Inuit Art Gallery is the brainchild of Jim Clark, a 15-year veteran of the commercial crabbing boats of the Bering Sea. The gallery opened this spring after Clark returned from an icy fishing season and signed a two-year-lease on the Fairway building loft that serves as both his home and gallery. He rents one of 45 mixed-use units created to keep artists and businesses on the fast-gentrifying waterfront.

"I've been in waterfront communities all my life that have been stagnant or in decline, so it's good to be in one that is coming back," Clark said, standing at New York Harbor through a large, round window.

Look North is the only Inuit gallery in Brooklyn and so far, all compasses are pointing to its success.

"He's got some fabulous stuff and a gorgeous location," said customer Daniel Nimetz, who visited the gallery last week to buy an Inuit sculpture carved out of green-veined Serpentine stone.

Nimetz, who lives upstate and works in Manhattan, had been to Red Hook only once before — in 1955, for a junior high field day.

Clark's love affair with the waterfront and the Inuit communities of the arctic shores began early.

He grew up in the whaling town that inspired "Moby Dick" — New Bedford, Mass. At 21, he left the East Coast for what he expected to be a short



Jim Clark inside his Look North Inuit Art Gallery, in the Fairway building at 275 Conover St.

stint on an Alaskan fishing boat. The adventure, however, turned into a crabbing career dotted with art collecting trips in the Inuit villages of Canada and Alaska. During the off-seasons, he visited Red Hook and fell in love again.

"I never planned to be a commercial fisherman," Clark said. "But I fell in love with the land, the harshness, the stoicism of it and just kept moving up the ranks of the boats. The more I learned about the art and got to know artists there, the more I wanted to be there for that. At some point, I realized I wasn't giving it up."

And still, he says he is not

giving it up.

"I'm still on a working waterfront," he said. "But I have also realized that the sea is much more romantic from the deck."

Look North (275 Conover St., in Red Hook) is open by appointment only. Call (917) 462-2878 or visit looknorthnyc.com.

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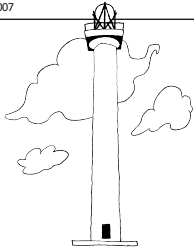
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THE stooop

FORT GREENE-CLINTON HILL

She can't go home again

My old Fort Greene digs — the \$750 three-bedroom apartment that I called home a mere four years ago — was one of Brownstoner.com's "condos of the day" last week.

The listing said the now-luxury condos were going for \$900,000 to \$1.4 million apiece (what? You don't get the whole building for that?).

My former roommates couldn't believe it either.

"That's a bananas price-out," one e-mailed me.

The other said that, like me, she was dying to go to the open house — you know, to see how our little Cinderella of a home looked like after some work by the Brooklyn real-estate fairy godmother.

Our somewhat bitter curiosity was to be expected. We'd made that apartment our home from 2003 to 2005, when the building was bought for the purposes of turning it into luxury condos overlooking Fort Greene Park in a historic district within one of the hippest neighborhoods in Brooklyn.

But still. Did we have to be removed in such an unceremonious fashion? And, more important, does it really take up to a year to return security deposits?

Any way, when I turned out Washington Park from DeKalb Avenue at about 2 p.m. on Sunday afternoon, it helped put me in the right frame of mind to pass the spot where a man put me in a headlock and mugged me, and the pole from which my bike was stolen.

The landscape had changed, subtly. Children from a nearby school had painted the trash cans along the side of Fort Greene Park in nature scenes of blue and yellow and white. A bike lane lined the street.

When I reached the four-story building, I saw that its facade was being redone, its grey, naked face peeking out from a row of more genteel brownstones.

A sign was posted on the door, which still had chipping paint and ominous-looking wood splinters. Presumably, it will be replaced, as will the discolored tiles in the entrance foyer that look like they belong in a school bathroom.

The broker welcomed me warmly into the first-floor apartment. After only one week on the market, he told me that the other three units had already been sold. That meant I couldn't visit the top-floor apartment, where I had lived. But I probably wouldn't recognize it anyway, what with the new hardwood floors, the working fireplace, the granite counters and sleek appliances, the oak cabinets and Kohler fixtures and Toto dual-flush toilets. (Quite a step up from the cracked linoleum and the bug-ridden pannies circa 2003.)

The first-floor apartment had been turned into a duplex, with a stairway leading down into the basement where we used to do our laundry (and where we'd find the occasional cockroach). The apartment opened onto a gorgeous, restored backyard.

I left the apartment impressed, a tad wistful, and flustered. On my way back to the train, I stopped by Smooch, the hipster-than-thou cafe on Carlton Avenue near DeKalb, where I asked for a lemonade. The barista, in turn, asked me for \$3.25 for what she said had been more than four ounces of lemonade that was suspiciously like Country Time.

The sickly sweet taste reminded me you can't go home again.

Dana Rubinstein is a reporter at The Brooklyn Paper.

GREENE ACRES

Dana Rubinstein

Gadfly buzzes work sites

By Dana Rubinstein
The Brooklyn Paper

All that's missing is a cape and a utility belt.

A self-styled superhero — who keeps her identity as hidden as any good Marvel or DC hero — is going around the neighborhood snapping disposable and cellphone-camera photos of what she believes are construction practices.

Holy vigilante, Batman! The Skillman Street resident has been e-mailing the photos to Councilwoman Letitia James (D-Fort Greene), who, in turn, says she will pass them on to the Department of Buildings.

But the shooter doesn't see herself as a superhero, but as a traditional muckraker.

"In the past couple of years, my landscape has completely altered," explained the Clinton Hill resident, who requested anonymity out of fear that construction companies will retaliate.

"Along Skillman, all these little buildings disappeared and these larger buildings started coming up. I started noticing that there had been a number of collapses, and there aren't very many safety precautions being taken."

Hot real-estate markets do tend to invite rushed — and shoddy — construction practices, James said, but "unfortunately, the Department of Buildings just doesn't have the resources to deal with the magnitude of the problem."

Among the alleged infractions that Super Shutterbug has witnessed are the use of cranes without protective barricades, signs, or warning flags, while children played only 50 feet away; after-hours construction; and the tossing of heavy materials over a balcony.

The Buildings Department has issued violations at many of the sites that have been photographed. The agency reminded residents that the best way to notify the city of problems is to call 311.

"We may not have an inspector for every one of the 950,000 buildings in this city, but the most expedient way to get action continues to be a call to 311 or 911," said Kate Lindquist, a Buildings Department spokeswoman. "Call 311, and we will prioritize response based on the condition's threat to public safety."

The greater threat, the shutterbug said, would be to remain silent.

"They may say I'm 'standing in the way of progress,'" she said. "But public safety is more important."



A crusader has been taking pictures of allegedly shoddy construction work in rapidly developing Clinton Hill. The job site above, on Franklin Avenue, has three open violations from the city. The site below, also on Franklin Avenue, has five — and work has been ordered halted until they're fixed.



Who battered this dog?

By Dana Rubinstein
The Brooklyn Paper

Animal care officials are asking for help from anyone who may have witnessed the abuse of a two-year-old Rottweiler in Clinton Hill last month.

"We've interviewed a number of people, but we'd welcome anybody else who witnessed this or can provide any information about it," said Joseph Pentangelo, the vice president of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, which is investigating the incident.

The alleged abuse came to light on June 28, when neighbors saw the Rottweiler lying bloodied in front of a house on Myrtle and Franklin avenues.

"The dog was lying in the street with blood all over it and a chord still wrapped around its neck," said Corey Stieh, who lives nearby. "The ASPCA law

enforcement assured us that the large amount of blood was due to a minor mouth injury."

Stieh speculated that the dog's owner was trying to get rid of the puppy, but neither the current or former property owners could be reached for comment.

Pentangelo confirmed that the animal had wounds "consistent with being struck in the face," and that the dog was apparently tied up with "electrical cord in lieu of a leash."

The Center for Animal Care and Control brought the injured pup back to its Linden Boulevard shelter. The dog has since been adopted by a "no-kill" shelter.

Pentangelo said the cruelty case is still open. Anyone with information should call the ASPCA at (212) 876-7700 x4450.



THE KITCHEN SINK

A memorial service was held on Friday for the late Councilman James Davis (D-Fort Greene), who was murdered in City Hall on July 23, 2003. "It's been four years since the assassination of my beloved brother," said Geoffrey Davis, who now heads the James E. Davis Stop Violence Foundation. "The pain has not subsided."

Nearly 150 Fort Greene and Clinton Hill residents have signed a petition asking Borough President Markowitz to pressure the city to stop the development of three soaring towers — the 18-story building planned for 163 Washington Ave., and the 11-story buildings intended for 120 Adelphi St. and 99 Grand Ave. The petitioners claim the developers are fast-tracking the construction so they can get "grandfathered in" before this week's approved Fort Greene/Clinton Hill down-zoning kicks in. E-mail us at Stoop@BrooklynPaper.com

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Farm gals robbed while they sell the cabbage

By Gersh Kuntzman
The Brooklyn Paper

78th Precinct

Two farmhands were robbed when their Chevy van was broken into while they worked the

farmers market in Grand Army Plaza on July 21.

Cops say the two women — a 65-year-old from Connecticut and a 30-year-old from Williamsburg — were selling produce at around 2 pm while a thief was around the corner breaking into the van.

The thief got away with a backpack, various credit and ID cards, \$20, and \$100 in library books, cops said.

Parking lot rob
A thief smashed through a woman's car window and stole a very expensive cellphone

while she shopped at a nearby drugstore on July 21. The victim had parked the BMW X5 in the parking lot of the chain drugstore, which is on Ninth Street between Fifth and Sixth avenues, at around 11 am, but returned less than an hour later to find the back window broken and

the \$500 cellphone gone. The Sixth Street woman also lost a monthly Metrocard.

Street blues
Two men were mugged by two thieves on Eighth Avenue in the heart of the Slope at around 7 pm on July 21.

The stunning twilight mugging occurred between Garfield Place and Carroll Street where the two men were walking home from the subway.

One of the thugs approached and asked, "Do you live around here?" When one of the men answered affirmatively, the thieves got between the victims and rifled their pockets.

One man lost a Verizon Chocolate cellphone and \$12, while the other man had nothing on him.

To add insult to injury, the thugs slapped their victims about the head, though no injuries were reported.

Inside job
An office worker at a De-graw Street construction company was arrested after she stole computer software valued at \$30,000 from one of the firm's computers, cops said.

The company, which is between Third and Fourth avenues, figured out the crime on July 20, and it didn't take cops long to finger the employee, 44, who was arrested later that day.

She had also taken bank routing information, cops said, but had not used it — yet.

Church hit
A church whose congregation is comprised mostly of ex-cons was robbed in the early

POLICE BLOTTER

morning of July 18, cops said. The Church of Gethsemane, which is on Eighth Avenue between 10th and 11th streets, was broken into shortly after 3 am, prompting cops to speed over.

When they arrived, they saw a perp inside the church, and followed him outside, where they later found him, curled up in "a fetal position" in a neighboring yard.

The 48-year-old had \$47 on him, cops said.

Some friend
A man who allowed his friend to stay in his 12th Street apartment while he was away on vacation returned to find his TV and the "friend" — were gone.

The unhappy homeowner was on July 29, when the returning 25-year-old discovered the theft in his apartment, which is near Fifth Avenue.

The thief also got away with a cable box and hundreds of dollars in CDs and DVDs.

Cars be gone
At least three cars were stolen last week off Park Slope streets. Here's a roundup:

• A man who parked his 1987 Alfa Romeo sports car on Plaza Street West between Lincoln and Berkeley places returned on July 15 to find it missing.

• A brand new Volvo — valued at \$45,000 — was stolen from its parking space on Plaza Street West near Flatbush Avenue, on July 17, cops said. The

man had parked the car in that location at around 2 pm, but when he returned four hours later, it was gone.

• A Toyota Camry was stolen from its spot on Eighth Avenue at 13th Street sometime between July 15 and July 19, the victim told cops. The 61-year-old owner of the 2002 car lives a block away.

In other car-related crimes, at least four other cars were broken into during the week.

• A man had a \$4,000 mountain bike stolen from the back of his pickup truck, which had been parked on Prospect Park West, near Seventh Street, at around 4 pm on July 15.

• A radio, satellite navigation system, and Playstation game were stolen out of a car that had been parked on 11th Street on July 18. The 22-year-old victim discovered the crime when he returned to the car, which had been parked between Fifth and Sixth avenues, at around 1:30 pm.

• An Apple laptop was stolen out of a Jeep that had been parked on Seventh Street on July 19 while its owner went inside New York Methodist Hospital for a work shift. The computer was valued at \$1,400.

• A navigation system and a cellphone were taken from a truck while its driver made a delivery on Dean Street on July 19. The truck had been parked between Fourth and Fifth avenues at around 12:30 pm.

Big-time break-in
A woman who left her Fourth Avenue apartment for just an hour on July 19 returned to find that a thief had broken down the door and stolen thousands of dollars in jewelry.

Cops say the woman, who lives between Seventh and Eighth streets, lost \$5,500 in jewelry, a digital camera and \$100 out of a piggy bank.

Bikerman thief
A woman who was talking on a cellphone as she walked on Eighth Avenue on July 17 had the mobile device taken right out of her hand by a thief on a bicycle, cops said.

The woman was nearing the corner of Seventh Street just after noon when the thief-on-bike swooped in and grabbed the Sidekick phone, valued at \$480.

Book worm
An employee of a popular Seventh Avenue bookstore had her credit card stolen out of her wallet — and only learned about the July 12 heist when her credit card company called

her a week later to ask her about some suspicious charges. The card had been left in a private office in the store, cops said.

By the time the St. Johns Place woman cancelled the card, the thief had run up \$475 in purchases.

She had also lost \$8 in the heist.

Time banist
A thief stole a teenager's cellphone by using the old "What time is it?" play on July 17.

The teen had been walking on Union Street between Third and Fourth avenues at around 3:15 pm when the thief approached and asked her for the time.

When she pulled out her cellphone to check, the thief grabbed it from her and said, "I need to make a call."

He started walking away, but the 15-year-old chased after him, prompting the thief to threaten the boy.

"Get out of here before I snuff you," said the thief, whom cops described as a 5-foot-8, 130-pound black man.

Sacked
A Sackett Street apartment was robbed of a video iPod and hundreds of dollars in video games on July 16.

The victim told cops that the apartment, which is between Fourth and Fifth avenues, was empty between noon and 5:30 pm, more than enough time for a thief to break in through the front door and remove the items, cops said.

Bag be gone
A water really hurt his chances for a good tip after a customer at his 15th Street restaurant had his bag stolen off his chair while he used the bathroom on July 13.

The man specifically asked the waiter to "look out" for the bag when he went to use the facilities at around 10 pm. But the waiter didn't do the job.

When the 32-year-old man returned, he discovered that the bag, which contained a cellphone and \$200, was gone from the restaurant, which is between Seventh and Eighth avenues.

Gunpoint rob
A man was robbed at gunpoint in the dark hallway of his 16th Street building on July 18.

Cops say two thieves rushed over to the man at around 10 pm as he was exiting the building, which is between Second Avenue and the Gowanus Canal. One of the men flashed a gun and said, "Give me your money" before relieving the victim of \$500.

The man said he could not give cops a good description of his assailants because the hallway was dark.

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BOOKS...

Continued from page 3
browse. "Get a life! (in New Biography)," read one sign, posted above biographical works like "Break on Through: The Life and Death of Jim Morrison," \$60.

"Got thought?" read another, hanging above a box of philosophical treatises, including Herbert Marcuse's "One-Dimensional Man," (\$7.50). "Accept the burden of history," read a third.

Simon has been in the book business for decades. His first job out of school was at a book warehouse, and before he opened Seventh Avenue Books, he was a vice president at BarnesandNoble.com.

He opened his bookstore on Seventh Avenue, between Seventh and Eighth streets, six years ago. In 2002, Simon opened a children's bookstore down the street, between Second and Third streets. In 2005, after the landlord raised the rent of the original storefront, Simon moved his entire operation to the same block of Seventh Avenue where his kids book store sits.

Even though his shop is almost across the street from Barnes and Noble, it turns a decent profit. Not necessarily enough to raise a family on, said Simon, but good for a single person or as a second income.

"I would prefer to see it bought," said Simon, who lists Walker Percy, Stanley Elkin, and Kurt Vonnegut as his favorite authors. "I'm proud of what we've put together."

If it's not bought, Simon and his loyal patrons have at least one thing to look forward to.

"I'll tell you one thing," said Simon, who guessed he had about 20,000 titles in stock. "If we go out of business, we'll offer the best moving-out sale New York has seen in years."

BIKE LANE...

Continued from page 3
and Copenhagen.

"Ninth Street would have been a good spot for DOT to experiment with that sort of design," Napantek said.

Other cyclists have chosen a more confrontational route. Since August 2006, bikers have posted pictures of illegally double-parked vehicles on the Web site mybike lane.org. The site's 571 members also post license plate numbers and rank offenders.

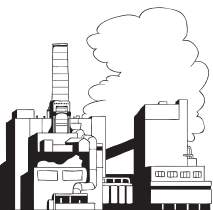
"Drivers who notice me photographing their vehicle will think twice about parking in the bike lane," one of the members said.

Despite that approach, many cyclists said that some type of obstruction is inevitable on commercial blocks.

"The trucks need to double-park somewhere to unload and the way Ninth Street is marked now, the trucks don't have much leeway in terms of space," said David Bijar.

THE KITCHEN SINK

Our pal **Lenore Arons** reports that her "Dining Out for a Cure" event was a huge success. "Thanks to **The Brooklyn Paper**," she hastened to add. After we ran a list of all the Park Slope restaurants participating in her breast cancer fundraiser, Arons's little idea generated \$4,600 to fight the dreaded disease. She says she'll try to get more restaurants next year — with our help again! ... Second anniversary? That would be the sangria anniversary, right? Our friends at **Melt**, on Regent Street between Fifth and Flatbush avenues, celebrated their second birthday with a party on Monday that featured \$10 kebab burgers and all-you-could-drink sangria. Several members of **The Brooklyn Paper** staff congratulated Melt in the only way they could, by repeatedly telling the bartender, "Um, could you top me off on the sangria? Thanks." ... **MS 51**, on Fifth Avenue between Fourth and Fifth streets, had a 35th reunion last week at **Union Hall**. Several teachers were on hand to remember the good old days when ties were wide and Bob Dylan could still sing. **E-mail: Stoop@BrooklynPaper.com**



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Sugar's sordid local story

The Domino sugar refinery in Williamsburg may be an important relic of 19th-century industrial architecture, but a far better reason for preserving it is the part it has played in the history of Brooklyn and of America.

To know the broader story of this building and of the people who worked in it is to consider questions such as who profited from American slavery, how north Brooklynites survived the Great Depression, why Coca-Cola was sweetened with corn syrup today, where the Metropolitan Museum got all those Impressionist paintings — even how tens of thousands of Puerto Ricans came to live in Williamsburg.

The empty brick-and-stone giant that was built on Kent Avenue in 1882 was the primary source of the Havemeyer family sugar fortune. Along with the Pratt/Rockefeller money, this was one of several great American fortunes to have roots in Brooklyn.

The story starts with brothers William and Frederick Havemeyer, who arrived in New York City in 1799 and built a sugar refinery on Vandam Street. Taking advantage of the worldwide tea-drinking craze (which drove up the price of sugar) and the low cost of sugar cane (which was produced in the Caribbean, originally by slaves), the brothers prospered.

As the Havemeyers built ever larger and more-sophisticated sugar refineries, eventually crossing the East River to Brooklyn for more space in 1856, they began to exhibit the contradictory set of traits that has characterized the family and its endeavors since: technical ingenuity, business acumen, a philanthropic and do-gooding bent, and utter ruthlessness.

While most 19th-century Havemeyer men devoted themselves to improving the sugar-refining process, buying up competitors and cracking the heads of striking workers, William F. Jr., son and nephew of the founders, left the business for a career in politics, saying that he had "no desire to make great wealth, and expressed little admiration for men who made that their life's aim."

He served two terms as the mayor of what was called New-York (it did not include Brooklyn then) and was known for his frankness, his naiveté and — oddly enough, considering the source of his personal wealth — his passionate opposition to slavery.

In the wake of the Boss Tweed scandals of the 1860s, the city turned to him a third time, electing him as a reform independent in 1872. When he died suddenly in office in 1874, the New York Tribune paid tribute to his integrity, his cantankerousness and the stubborn impracticality that made him almost entirely useless as a civic leader.

In 1855, eight years after this classic Knickerbocker character was first elected mayor, his polar opposite, Henry Osborne Havemeyer, was born. H.O. was brilliant, and he directed this brilliance toward making great wealth. He modernized and mechanized the sugar-refining business and bought up most of his local competitors. He later took advantage of the Civil War to relocate most of the nation's sugar refining capacity to a two-mile stretch of the Brooklyn waterfront that encompassed Palmer's Dock and the Eastern District Terminal railroad facility. At one point, more than half of the country's sugar passed through what is now the Domino plant.

An archetypal 19th-century robber baron, H.O. Havemeyer did not let anyone or anything get in his way. If the government prevented him from creating a monopoly on sugar, then he bought a few politicians. Bourgeois morality was no obstacle when in 1883 he grew tired of his wife, Mary Elder, and decided to marry her much younger niece, Louise.

The crowning achievement of H.O. Havemeyer's life, decades in the making, was the Sugar Trust, a legal monopoly that, in the words of a contemporary, "snaked like a gigantic octopus from the Caribbean to Brooklyn across the United States to the Philippines." The Sugar Trust allowed one man to set sugar prices and workers' wages across an immense industry. In a time when cane sugar was the sole sweetener for baked goods, soft drinks, tea and coffee, the Sugar Trust was practically a license to print money.

Next week: Part II on sugar's sordid past.

Tom Gilbert is a Greenpoint-based historian and writer

THE KITCHEN SINK

Considering the stunning popularity of the new bike racks near the Bedford Avenue L station, it's a wonder why the city doesn't put up racks near more subway stations. ... It appears that TGE's plan to build a power plant on Kent and North 12th Street is 97.6 percent dead. At a recent hearing, a state's board refused to make a ruling, punting the ball to the city, which must grant permission for TGE to run pipes through city property for the plant. No one thinks that the city will grant permission. ... According to **Transportation Alternatives**, the NYPD recently conducted a no-warning confiscation of illegally parked/locked bikes on Bedford Street in Williamsburg. It is not known how this kind of operation contributes to the administration's stated goal of reducing automobile traffic and congestion. ... The **Landmarks Preservation Commission** did the expected and named the **McCarren Park Pool** a city landmark. That's good news, though it means that any city restoration project will have to go through sometimes-persnickety commission. In a related story, the **LPC** also had a hearing to consider landmarking the **Eberhard Faber** pencil factory in Greenpoint as a landmark. The building, which is at 61 Greenpoint Ave., is known for its No. 2 pencil-shaped details on the side. Email us at Stoop@BrooklynPaper.com

BESIDE THE POINT

Tom Gilbert

A sweet future for sugar plant



These three buildings on the Domino Sugar factory site — the Filter House, the Pan House and the Finishing House — would be saved and reused by developers. But less clear is what would happen to the factory's iconic sign on the East River (below).

By Tom Gilbert
 For The Brooklyn Paper

The old Domino Sugar refinery on the Williamsburg waterfront will be transformed into a stylish complex featuring 2,220 units of housing, commercial space and four acres of public park — though the \$1.3-billion development plan unveiled this week would require the demolition of some historic structures, possibly including the site's iconic "Domino Sugar" sign.

Developer Michael Lippin summoned the press corps to the 11.2-acre waterfront site along Kent Avenue between Grand and South Fifth streets on Tuesday to show off the Rafael Viñoly-designed master plan.

The highlights included a promise that 660 of the apartment units would be below-market rate, with

some set aside for seniors; 120,000 square feet of retail space; and "a five-block waterfront promenade open to all and a connection to Grand Ferry Park," Lippin said.

"This is the first time ... that this part of the waterfront will be open to the public," he added.

The plan would require several 19th-century buildings, including the Adant House at the corner of South Fifth Street and Kent Avenue, to be razed. As such, it did not please everyone, including some preservationists who believe the entire site should be landmarked.

Vinoly would preserve and reuse only the Filter House/Pan House/Finishing House buildings, a brick structure that abuts Kent Avenue between South Second and South Third streets. The building will house "retail shops, apartments and community and cultural facilities," Lippin said. But it



won't be easy, according to Trevor Atwell, a Vinoly architect.

"We were surprised to find that the structure was so non-viable," he said. "Basically, in order to preserve the facade, we will have to spend \$50 million to scoop out the insides and build an entirely new structure to support it."

Less clear is what will happen to the famous neon "Domino Sugar" sign. Lippin said only that preserving the sign was "under study."

The project will require a zoning change to allow for residential development on land that is currently zoned for manufacturing. The Department of City Planning will take up the issue on July 31, the latest to what is expected to be a year-long battle.

Department of City Planning "scoping sessions" will be held on July 31 at 22 Reade St. in Manhattan, at 2 pm and 6 pm.

Ghost bike gone from W'burg street



A ghost bike honoring cyclist Jon Neese (similar to the one in the inset) was removed from South Fourth Street.

By Rachel Corbett
 For The Brooklyn Paper

The city has removed a white painted "ghost bike," one of more than two dozen that have been installed to memorialize dead bicyclists killed on the mean streets.

The move came as a surprise to members of the Visual Resistance artist collective, which installed the ghost bike to honor 34-year-old bike messenger Jonathan "Bronx Jon" Neese, who died in August, 2006 near the corner of South Fourth and Roebuck streets, near the base of the Williamsburg bridge.

"The city's been pretty good," said Visual Resistance member Ryan Knucke. "They understand that they're respectful memorials so they're not treating them like graffiti or visual pollution."

But Knucke quickly added that the removal of Bronx Jon's bike made him "nervous" about whether the city was about to start a crack-down on the unauthorized memorials.

Parks Department regulations allow inspectors to clear any unwanted personal property. And the agency must have prior notification whenever memorials are installed.

"If there's a memorial we need to know about it," said Phil Abramson, an agency spokesman. "Otherwise, who's to say that something is really a memorial?"

Abramson added, however, that he was not aware of the department removing any of the bikes, though he could not speak for other agencies.

The project began in 2005 when a

member of Visual Resistance saw a truck hit and kill 28-year-old cyclist Liz Padilla on Fifth Avenue in Park Slope.

A bike was painted white and chained to a signpost at the site of the accident, at the corner of Prospect Place.

"We were surprised by how big of a response it got from other cyclists," Knucke said. "Friends and families started contacting us and it became a much bigger thing."

There are now 27 ghost bikes in the city. During the first week in January, hundreds of cyclists visit each on a memorial tour.

A replacement bike is currently being painted for Bronx Jon and is scheduled to be re-mounted next week.

How long it lasts is anyone's guess.

Our cops are sent to DUMBO

By Harry Cheadle
 The Brooklyn Paper

Officers from Williamsburg's 90th Precinct were dispatched to usually peaceful DUMBO this week in an effort to stop a mini-crime wave that has swept the quiet area between the Manhattan and Brooklyn bridges.

Cops from the 84th Precinct — backed by extras from the 90th — have been making extra patrols, both on foot and in mid-air, to crack a mini-crime spree that began with at least two

break-ins on June 30 at 45 Main St. In both crimes, a burglar busted a hole through Sheetrock to rob a photographer and a law firm. Two weeks later, there was a similar robbery attempt at nearby 55 Washington St.

A thief also hit a Jay Street building in early July, making off with a business's computers and cameras, according to Corbett.com.

The same blog reported that last week the police arrested a man who was allegedly involved in robbing 12 cars and 14 offices in the last few

months, but he was released due to lack of evidence.

Captain Alan Abel, commander of the 84th Precinct, which includes DUMBO, Downtown, Brooklyn Heights, and Boerum Hill, said he would not comment on an "Internet rumor."

A spokesman for Two Trees Management, a major DUMBO landowner, said there are plans "to install increased security measures on all buildings," although the spokesman, Brad Eide, would not give details.



These officers from Williamsburg's 90th Precinct were sent to DUMBO, in the 84th Precinct, to fight a mini-crime wave.

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Crab man's grab bag

By Ariella Cohen
The Brooklyn Paper

Two stories above the frozen fish and live crustaceans of the Red Hook Fairway, a man who has spent his adult life pursuing the Alaska King Crab has opened a gallery for the art he fell in love while at sea.

Look North Inuit Art Gallery is the brainchild of Jim Clark, a 15-year veteran of the commercial crabbing boats of the Bering Sea. The gallery opened this spring after Clark returned from an icy fishing season and signed a two-year lease on the Fairway building loft that serves as both his home and gallery. He rents one of 45 mixed-use units created to keep artists and businesses on the fast-gentrifying waterfront.

"I've been in waterfront communities all my life that have been stagnant or in decline, so it's good to be in one that is coming back," Clark said, starting at New York Harbor through a large, round window.

Look North is the only Inuit Gallery in Brooklyn and so far, all compasses are pointing to its success.

"He's got some fabulous stuff and a gorgeous location," said customer Daniel Nimetz, who visited the gallery last week to buy an Inuit sculpture carved out of green-veined Serpentine stone.

Nimetz, who lives upstate and works in Manhattan, had been to Red Hook only once before — in 1955, for a junior high field day.

Clark's love affair with the waterfront and the Inuit com-



Jim Clark inside his Look North Inuit Art Gallery, in the Fairway building at 275 Conover St.

munities of the arctic shores began early.

He grew up in the whaling town that inspired "Moby Dick" — New Bedford, Mass. At 21, he left the East Coast for what he expected to be a short stint on an Alaskan fishing boat. The adventure, however, turned into a crab-

bhing career dotted with art collecting trips in the Inuit villages of Canada and Alaska. During the off-seasons, he visited Red Hook and fell in love again.

"I never planned to be a commercial fisherman," Clark said. "But I fell in love with the land, the harshness, the stoicism of it

and just kept moving up the ranks of the boats. The more I learned about the art and got to know artists there, the more I wanted to be there for that. At some point, I realized I wasn't giving it up."

And still, he says he is not giving it up.

"I'm still on a working waterfront," he said. "But I have also realized that the sea is much more romantic from the dock."

Look North (275 Conover St., in Red Hook) is open by appointment only. Call (917) 462-2878 or visit looknorthny.com.

Police seek beater of this Rottweiler



By Dana Rubinstein
The Brooklyn Paper

Animal care officials are asking for help from anyone who may have witnessed the abuse of a two-year-old Rottweiler in Clinton Hill last month.

"We've interviewed a number of people, but we'd welcome anybody else who witnessed this or can provide any information about it," said Joseph Pentangelo, the vice

president of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, which is investigating the incident.

The alleged abuse came to light on June 28, when neighbors saw the Rottweiler lying bloodied in front of a house on Myrtle and Franklin avenues.

"The dog was lying in the street with blood all over it and a chord still wrapped around its neck," said Corey Stuch, who

lives nearby. "The ASPCA law enforcement assured us that the large amount of blood was due to a minor mouth injury."

Stuch speculated that the dog's owner was trying to get rid of the puppy, but neither the current or former property owners could be reached for comment.

Pentangelo confirmed that the animal had wounds "consistent with being struck in the face," and that the dog was ap-

parently tied up with "electrical cord in lieu of a leash."

The Center for Animal Care and Control brought the injured pup back to its Linden Boulevard shelter.

The dog has since been adopted by a "no-kill" shelter.

Pentangelo said the cruelty case is still open. Anyone with information should call the ASPCA at (212) 876-7700 x4450.

Cops seek Hasid thug



By Dana Rubinstein
The Brooklyn Paper

Cops are seeking this Hasidic man for the attempted knife-point kidnapping of a woman on July 3 in South Williamsburg.

The 22-year-old victim escaped with only cuts to her hands in the 11 am attack at the corner of Williamsburg and Kent Avenue. Cops say the man pulled up next to her in a gray minivan, and, using a knife, tried to coerce her into the vehicle.

"If you say anything, I'll kill you," he said, according to police. The victim didn't talk, but she did fight back, escaping with only minor injuries while the man fled in the minivan.

Police describe him as a 240-pound, white, black-bearded, Hasidic man, between the ages of 37 and 45, wearing glasses, black pants, and a "white fringe garment" — an apparent reference to the prayer shawl worn underneath the clothing by Orthodox Jewish men.

Anyone with any information is asked to call Detective Roman at the 84th Precinct at (718) 875-6687. All identities will be kept anonymous, the police said.

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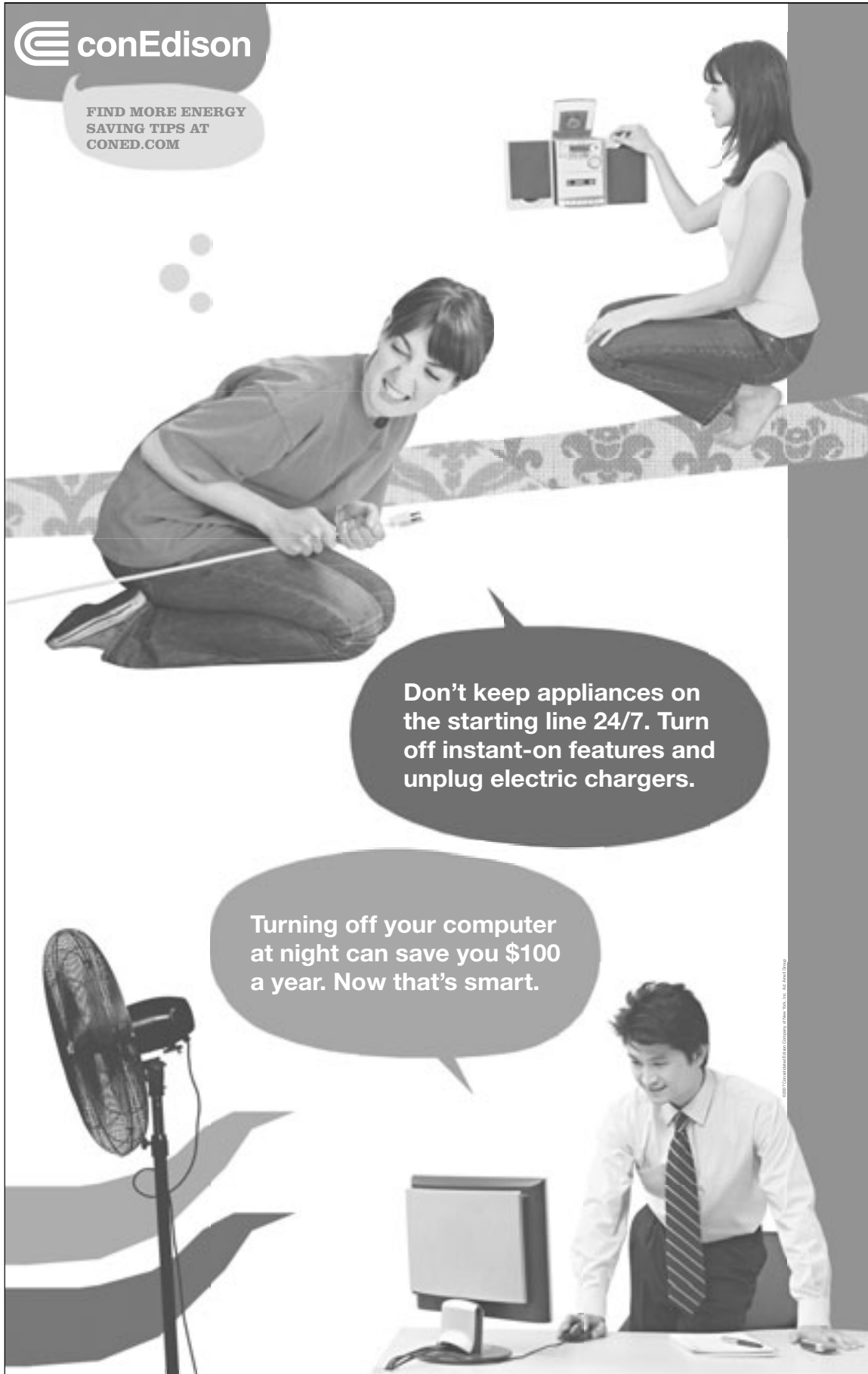
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'Bride' ID'd from her ring

By Gersh Kuntzman
The Brooklyn Paper

The mystery of the "Bride of Fourth Street" has been solved: she was not, in fact, about to get married. But she did have a wedding ring.

As The Brooklyn Paper reported exclusively last week, police rushed to Fourth Street, between Eighth Avenue and Prospect Park West last Sunday morning after getting reports that a wedding-dress-clad woman was sleeping in the transom above a brownstone's front door. "Maybe she's a fallen angel," one of the cops quipped before his fellow officers carried down the unconscious woman and took her to the hospital for psychiatric evaluation. Neighbors said she didn't make a sound, except to cry out when an officer briefly took away a teddy bear-shaped bag that contained a Tiffany box with a diamond ring inside. A police source at the 78th Precinct told The Brooklyn Paper that the ring was indeed genuine. Cops called the Fifth Av-



PHOTO BY GERSH KUNTZMAN

enue gem merchant with the ring's serial number and were given the name of the man who purchased it.

The man later told cops that the woman had indeed been his fiancée, but that he had dumped her because "she was bi-polar and wouldn't take her medicine," the police source said.

The woman was later released from the hospital and is in the custody of her father, who lives on the block, the source said.

After being reported in The Brooklyn Paper, the story of the mysterious bride was covered nationwide.

Marty trims 'Lighten Up'

By Chris Cascarano
for The Brooklyn Paper

Borough President Markowitz put "Lighten Up Brooklyn" on a diet this year.

Once an annual event featuring weeks of weight-loss classes, programs and tips, this year's "Lighten Up Brooklyn" consisted of just one weekend's worth of walking tours.

It's not because Markowitz no longer believe in diet and exercise — indeed, he lost 25 pounds since last year's campaign — but simply that Mayor Bloomberg is doing such a good job promoting weight loss citywide (if you chose to believe the explanation from Markowitz's spokeswoman, that is).

"The city's Health Department is doing plenty to support the health of its citizens," said the spokeswoman, Laura Sinagra. "This year we decided to make [Lighten Up, Brooklyn] shorter." In its first year, 2002, Lighten Up Brooklyn offered discounts to health clubs and sports stores, plus easy access to dieticians and health experts. There were even 156 weigh-in stations where weight-watchers could check their progress.

There was incentive, too. The neighborhood that lost the most weight had a flag raised above Borough Hall. Each weigh-in station's biggest loser got a free night in the Brooklyn Marriott and an appearance on NBC's "Today" show.

The diet event was so big that fitness legend Richard Simmons performed a workout routine with Markowitz — and CNN, the BBC, and even a Japanese news show covered the Markowitz initiative. Most important, it worked. In 2002, 5,921 people stuck with the program, losing a total of 41 tons of excess Brooklyn.

What a difference a few years makes. This year, there were no weigh-in stations and no data was taken for before and after comparisons.

"It's too bad they have taken it away," said Anthony Drayton, who lost the most weight during the 2002 Lighten Up Brooklyn campaign. "It helps you get in shape to have the whole borough behind you."



Marty Markowitz trimmed his Lighten Up Brooklyn campaign this year.

HORSES...

Continued from page 1

traffic, in one case resulting in an accident where a man in his car honked a horse and rider moving too slowly. The horse reared, damaged the vehicle and the man filed suit.

"City people just don't know how horses react," said Blank-

inship.

Perhaps there is just no room for a horse stable in a rapidly developing neighborhood.

When Kensington Stables opened in 1930, it consisted of three barns and over 70 horses. Today, there is only one with 40 horses.

And no one knows how long it can hold out.

"This is about the stable, but it's also just about putting controls on development," said Mandy Harris of the community group Stable Brooklyn.

After repeated calls to the developer, a spokesperson said he was unaware that there were any problems with the stable. Too bad Mr. Ed doesn't bed down in Kensington.

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The Brooklyn Paper's essential guide to the Borough of Kings

July 28, 2007

TV's show

TV on the Radio takes the stage at McCarren Pool this weekend

By Emily Farris
for The Brooklyn Paper

When rock band TV on the Radio formed in 2001, Brooklyn was a very different place. Bands from New York were all the rage, popping up on MTV and Top 40 countdowns everywhere you turned. It seemed you couldn't swing a guitar without knocking over a hot, new act, especially in Williamsburg, where TV on the Radio is from.

Six years later, there might be more condos and strollers on the streets of their neighborhood, but the band is still the same, drummer Jaleel Bunton told GO Brooklyn.

And they're bringing their act back home this weekend. On July 29, they'll perform at the McCarren Park Pool with Celebration, Miles Benjamin and Anthony Robinson as part of the Hello and JellyNYC Present Pool Parties series.

"When I first moved here from Kentucky, there was only Planet Thailand and Sweetwater Tavern [in the neighborhood]. That was it," Bunton said. "It's changed a lot, but it doesn't surprise me that it's arrived where it has."

The same could be said of his band, which, after three albums and a handful of EPs, still gets fans and critics

worked up. Even David Bowie isn't immune to its charm — he's often spotted at shows and even contributed vocals to the 2006 record, "Return to Cookie Mountain."

It isn't just celebrities and DJs who get excited about the band, though. "I'm jumping out of my pants I'm so excited that TV on the Radio is playing a free show in Brooklyn," said Skye Chamberlain, 19, of Clinton Hill. "They're one of my favorite bands."

Bunton said that the band wanted to play the free show to give something back to its fan base. "We're a product of this community and we've had success and been really fortunate," he said. "Brooklyn is a part of that."

Being at home surely includes the hijinx that have come to make the Pool Parties the hottest spot in the neighborhood this summer.

Besides the concerts, the afternoons feature beverages from Brooklyn Brewery, full-court dodgeball — champions take home the "Dick Cheney Golden Dodge Trophy" — and a 32-foot Slip 'n' Slide. It's Neverland on the banks of the East River.

"I think the idea of doing a big outdoor

MUSIC

TV on the Radio will play at 2 pm on July 29 at the McCarren Park Pool (Lorimer and Bayard streets in Williamsburg). Admission is free. For information, visit www.thepoolparties.com.



Music television: Williamsburg's TV on the Radio will play at McCarren Park Pool this weekend. Fans can watch the band, play a game of dodgeball or enjoy a trip down the 32-foot Slip 'n' Slide.

show that was free and in their neighborhood was very appetizing to them," said Doug DeFalco, head booker for JellyNYC. "It's like a family reunion of sorts."

The band feels the same way. "One of the best things about this band is coming home to Brooklyn," said Bunton. "We've been really embraced."

Making waves

There was a time — before Netflix, TiVo and even iTunes — when radio ruled the world. Families crowded around the Zenith and tuned in to everything from presidential addresses to the adventures of "The Shadow."

But as audio cowboys across the land are hanging up their microphones, Brooklyn still has a strong voice on the dial. GO Brooklyn adjusted its antennae and dug up the best broadcasts that the borough has to offer. Tune in and discover them for yourself.

Brooklyn College Radio

This student-run station mixes genres like indie rock, top 40 pop and country with a bread-and-butter playlist of hip-hop and R&B. Politics



Brooklyn Vegan on Sirius Satellite Radio

should tune in on Saturday afternoons at 3 pm for "Voices of Freedom," which fuses discussion on the political issues of the day with popular music. For information, tune in to 1090 AM or visit www.brooklyncollegeradio.org.

Kingsborough Community College Radio

Besides being known as the only station where you can catch Cyclones games, Kingsborough Community College Radio broadcasts a wide variety of tracks including '80s, new wave, punk, R&B and hip-hop. Sunday nights at 7 pm, tune into Ed Caulfield's "Jazz Years," featuring classic and contemporary jazz for over a decade.

To catch the action and music, tune to 90.3 FM.

For information, tune in to 97.9 FM or www.radiosoleil.com.

— Juliana Bunim

EVENT

New freaks

From July 30–Aug. 5, a new breed of Coney Island circus folk will come to town when the Cole Brothers Circus pitches its tent — the first time the big top has set up shop here since 1938. "This fits into the plan to turn Coney Island into a year-round destination," said Chuck Weiner, a spokesman for Cole Brothers, whose performance day is sponsored by Thor Equities, the real-estate leviathan that's pitching a \$2-billion Coney Island redevelopment scheme.

Thor Equities is trying to show that it understands the neighborhood and the Coney spirit, and the area's unofficial mayor, Dick Zigun, founder of the Coney Island Circus Sideshow, thinks

"Circus and sideshow go together like peanut butter and jelly." Zigun told GO Brooklyn. "It is something that Brooklyn families shouldn't miss." The Cole Bros. Circus will run July 30–Aug. 5 just off the boardwalk, between Stillwell Avenue and West 12th Street in Coney Island. For information, visit www.tickets.com. — Juliana Bunim

NIGHTLIFE

Rock brunch

Leave it to Williamsburg to take something as wholesome as brunch and turn it into a party.

Beginning in August, Macri Park — a new, 24-hour restaurant, coffee shop and bar — will start serving Sunday brunch with big help from an unusual ingredient: live DJs.

"It's the best way to cure your Saturday night hangover," said DJ Lauren Flax (pictured), the resident record spinner and a Williamsburg resident who has DJed parties around the world. Flax told GO Brooklyn that brunch with a DJ would be like an extension of Saturday night clubbing.

"Sundays call for laying out with a drink and sunglasses," bar manager Rachel Herman-Gross said. She suggested heading to the cafe's patio with an egg sandwich or slice of quiche and pairing it with one of their \$5 drink specials. "I'm trying to have a party every day."

Macri Park (462 Union Ave., at Metropolitan Avenue in Williamsburg) is open 24 hours. For information, call (718) 599-4999. — Adam Rathe

ART

Big art

The Brooklyn Waterfront Artist Coalition sure wasn't kidding when it named its new exhibit the "Really Big Art Show" — the biggest piece of art in the Red Hook gallery space will measure six feet tall and 70 feet wide.

"We have this great big space in a 25,000-square-foot Civil War era warehouse, and we thought it was time to make use of it by showing works consistent with its size," said BWAC President John Strohben.

The show also marks another milestone for BWAC — the highest price ever slapped on a piece of BWAC art: the \$22,000 print affixed to Mel Smothers's "I Painted Over Andy Warhol."

A big payday might not be in the cards, though. "I'd say the chances of someone buying it are less than one percent," said Strohben.

"The Really Big Art Show" runs weekends from 2–6 pm through August 19 at the Red Hook Pier (499 Van Brunt St., at Beard Street in Red Hook). For information, visit www.bwac.org. — Juliana Bunim

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Why France Matters

By Darrin Siegfried

I never understood the whole "boycott France" idea. France never said "No" to President Bush when it came to going into Iraq, yet some uninformed members of Congress loudly began to lay blame on France for almost all that was wrong with the world today. France never said "No."

Russia said "No," yet no one stopped drinking Russian vodka or called for a boycott of Russian caviar or Russian fur coats. Germany said "No," but no one gave up their Mercedes-Benz in protest. Belgium said "No," yet there was no stigma attached to enjoying Belgian beer or Belgian chocolates. Canada said "No" and there was no outcry to rename Canadian bacon "Freedom Bacon."

France is our oldest and truest ally. The French philosophers of the Enlightenment inspired our Founding Fathers to throw off the idea that kings were ordained by God and take up the ideas of democracy, freedom and "liberty and justice for all." France nearly went bankrupt helping to fund our own American Revolution, and French troops, today, are fighting the Taliban in Afghanistan, shoulder-to-shoulder with our own soldiers and Marines.

I'm glad to report that this whole foolish boycott, called for by silly, little men, has failed. Imports of French wines this year are up 13% by volume, and 22% by value.

So... why France? If you are a wine drinker, you quickly come to discover that France created the classification standards which have been adopted throughout Europe, and form the basis for our own fledgling designation rules. Because of this enlightened system, wine drinkers can tell, by simply reading the wine label, what style of wine is in the bottle and we are guaranteed a level of quality. If I am looking for a crisp, bone-dry white wine to enjoy with fresh oysters and I choose a bottle of Muscadet, I know that the wine will be exactly what I am looking for, made certain by the French laws of Appellations d'Origine Contrôlée.

The French system of Appellations d'Origine Contrôlée (AOC) dates back to the 15th Century, when Roquefort cheese was both protected from counterfeiters and impostors and the standards of Quality regulated by law. Modern Appellation laws began in 1919 and are meant to insure the integrity and quality of the product named, to protect the producers from "outsiders" using the name of their unique product for their goods, and to guarantee to the consumer that what is on the label matches what is inside the package.

In the case of wines the designation "Appellation Contrôlée" (AC) is the highest rating given, and the laws governing the

growth and production of those wines are the most strict. Lower on the quality designation field are Vin Délimité de Qualité Supérieure (VDQS), Vin de Pays and Vin de Table.

French wines must conform to set standards in these ways:

The land. Where the grapes for an appellation may be grown is precisely defined and limited. The composition of the soil, the altitude of the vineyard, whether the land is flat, slopes gently or steeply, faces towards the sun... all of this is factored into whether a vineyard is granted the right to a protected name and, in some cases, if the vineyard will be granted the highly coveted (and profitable) designation of Premier Cru (First Growth) or Grand Cru (Great Growth).

Grapes. The AOC laws specify which grape varieties may be planted in an Appellation-designated area. This matching of which grape grows best in which area is based on centuries of trial and error, meticulous record-keeping and tradition. A grower may plant any grape which he chooses but, if he plants Zinfandel, for example, he cannot call his wine Burgundy.

Viticultural practices: The number of vines planted per hectare, the way in which the vines are pruned and trained, fertilization methods, irrigation, whether grapes must be picked by machine or by hand... all are specifically addressed and defined.

Permissible yield: Since a large crop decreases the overall quality of a harvest, the higher the quality designation, the smaller the amount of grapes per vine that may be grown.

Alcohol content: All Appellations must guarantee a minimum alcohol level, which means that the grapes have reached a required level of ripeness and have developed ripe flavors.

Winemaking practices: Every AOC region has regulations governing the methods used to make wine. These are based on the historic practices of the area, allowing for such modernization as hydraulic grape presses, stainless steel fermentation tanks, temperature control, etc.

Official tasting: All AOC wines must be tasted and their flavor approved by a panel, made up of Appellation officials and local winemakers. This step is to insure typicity. Your Muscadet should taste like a Muscadet, and not like a Pouilly Fumé... and not like a damp basement, either.

AOC wines must have met all seven criteria in order to carry the name of their appellation. If they fail to meet so much as one standard, they are declassified, or knocked down a step, which means that they will bring in less money for the winery.

Next Week: More about why France matters.



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The Brooklyn Paper / Gregory M. Raggio

Creaming California

Prospect Heights takes on the West Coast and wins

By Jessica Grose
for The Brooklyn Paper

People from California are constantly lamenting the lack of decent Mexican food on this side of the Sierra Nevadas. My boyfriend Mike is one of them. Usually he complains that it's too bland, or the vegetables are wilted and brown — nothing like the waxy, round flour that he gets out in the Golden State. We've been to plenty of Mexican restaurants all across Brooklyn, but nothing has satisfied his hankering for a decent quesadilla.

Until Chavella's, that is. The restaurant's chef-owner, Arturo Leonar, honed his skills under Calle Ocho's Alex Garcia. Although Calle Ocho's thrust is Nuevo Latino cuisine and Chavella's serves Mexican, Leonar still retains Garcia's modern take on traditional fare.

Walking down Classon Avenue on a recent Saturday night, I was struck by the attractive, unassuming facade of the restaurant. The front of the small space is covered in lime green tiles, and the open kitchen is cordoned off from the dining area by a half-wall with brown-slatted blinds. Couples, young families and tables of twentysomethings dominated the relaxed crowd. And since Chavella's



The Brooklyn Paper / Gregory M. Raggio

is still awaiting its liquor license, many of its patrons were enjoying Coronas from the bodega next door.

The other thing that almost everyone in the room was enjoying was Chavella's guacamole. The brilliant creamy green of the avocado was peppered with chunky pico de gallo, and instead of the usual yawn-inducing fried chips, the guac was served in a stone mortar with steaming warm corn tortillas.

"That actually looks amazing," my boyfriend said, shocked with his own admission and, as we dug into the green mound, I saw his skeptical expression change into a grin.

The guacamole, however, would pale in comparison to what came next: "Pepito," a toasted baguette with black bean



The Brooklyn Paper / Gregory M. Raggio

spread, Oaxaca cheese and pico de gallo sprinkled on top. Although on the surface, "Pepito" seemed like a fancy, Mexican grilled cheese sandwich, the dusky flavor of the black bean spread on a small baguette round combined with precisely melted cheese and the crisp

tomato, onion and cilantro made for a near perfect combination. My boyfriend tried to take the last piece and I nearly stabbed him with my fork.

It was wise not to, since we still had eating to do. Next up was an order of "Elotes

Callejeros," grilled corn slathered in chipotle mayo and cotija cheese. Generally I find mayo heavy and foul, but the kicked-up flavor of the chipotle made the dusty orange-colored spread taste light and delicious. Across the table, Mike was licking his plate clean.

After three appetizers, we split the hefty "Plato Don," a round fajita-style platter of chipotle chicken and grilled

steak, for our main course. Tossed onto one of the warm tortillas it was served with, the shredded chicken was tender and perfectly seasoned, but I was disappointed by the steak. Not only was it bland, but it was as tough as the chicken was tender. After the amazing appetizers, the pedestrian steak was a let down, but we devoured the chicken and the rest of the fixings (grilled vegetables, rice, beans and more guacamole) despite our non-bulging bellies.

The small dessert menu — flan and rice pudding only — lacked pizzazz. With the heaping portions we were served for dinner, it would have taken a lot more than custard for us to order another course.

And, as we walked towards the car, the California boy grudgingly admitted Chavella's was "damn good. Actually, the best Mexican I've had in Brooklyn."

DINING

Chavella's (732 Classon Ave., between Park and Prospect places in Prospect Heights) accepts cash only. Entrees: \$7-\$12. The restaurant offers lunch and dinner Tuesday through Sunday. Closed Monday. Subway: C to Franklin Avenue; 2 and 3 to Eastern Parkway/Brooklyn Museum. For information, call (718) 622-3100.

Going hog wild

When Smoke Joint opened in Fort Greene in 2006, the ambrosial banquet of hickory-and-maplewood smoked barbecue made owners Craig Samuel and Ben Grossman (pictured) neighborhood heres.

As if that weren't enough, the two will soon open Little Piggy (Market), a 350-square-foot "not-so-general store," next to their original swine station designed to lure in the rest of the neighborhood's foodie fanatics.

Slated to let out its first squeal in early August, Little Piggy will feature a retail shop in addition to a take-out counter stocked with Southern-tinged delicacies like smoked hams and cheese grits, and, to make up for the lack of desserts at Smoke Joint, lemon bars and pecan squares. A tight-lipped Grossman wouldn't reveal the name of the incoming pastry chef, but did say that all of the sweets will be handcrafted and delicious.

"We've gotten a lot of requests from our customers for new menu items, like coffee and desserts, but we just didn't



The Brooklyn Paper / Daniel Raggio

have the space to do it before," said Grossman. Another feature that's sure to make those doing without at Smoke Joint jealous? Air conditioning. "We're trying to give people what they want."

And this being Brooklyn, people want high-end sundries done their way. Accordingly, Samuel and Grossman are sourcing most of their ingredients locally, buying loads at the Fort Greene Park and Grand Army Plaza

farmer's markets. Little Piggy (Market) (64 Lafayette Ave., at South Elliott Place in Fort Greene) will open in August. For information, call (718) 797-1011. — John O'Connor

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10 AWP

THE BROOKLYN PAPER



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July 28, 2007

Caught in their Web

Brooklyn artists recruit for new online community

By Juliana Bunim
for The Brooklyn Paper

In today's big money art market, artists, dealers and gallery owners from around the world are often in constant contact.

But now, thanks to the ingenuity of two creative minds in DUMBO, even small-time artists are able to share ideas with far off friends — and all without leaving their studios.

The new art-centered social networking site, Brooklynartproject.com is a sophisticated — and free — site that allows artists to create profiles, upload images and videos of their work, create "project rooms" with other members and bounce ideas off peers in the far corners of the world.

The site is the brainchild of brothers Anthony and James Cospito, owners of the Web consulting firm Strut. Beginning in March, the Cospitos, who had been experimenting with fresh ideas for social networking, began working on a site for other Brooklyn-based creative types.

"We realized we were spending all this time figuring out communication solutions for other people," said James. "Why not apply that to artists?"

Bringing together their professional background with their mutual interest in art — Anthony is a photographer and James is an illustrator, sculptor and painter — the brothers took the Brooklyn Art Project from conception to launch in little over one month.

"We launched in April and people started to sign up right away. It's really interesting to see the community start to blossom," said James.

Advertising only on Craigslist, the Project grew steadily thanks to word of mouth. At this point the site has 600 members and has notched

about 30,000 unique visitors. "It amazes me how quickly it spreads, and I think that says something about the nature of art," said James. "People want to be collaborative and be in a community where they can be inspired. As an artist, there are a lot of times when you are isolated and a big question is how do you break out of that?"

Getting feedback is a key part of the site for most users. "I've been really impressed with the quality of art and value members have for comments," said Kate Brenner, a Williamsburg artist who counts herself as one of the

site's first members. "It's a refined networking site with an actual purpose. Hopefully it will remain that and not just become Myspace for hipsters."

Revenue for the site will come from ads, but the bigger plan is to eventually act as representation for the artists, with the site taking a percentage of sales.

Even so, the brothers are careful not to move too fast or risk exploiting their community of artists.

"We really want to be on the side of the artist," said Anthony. "And if that means we need to grow a little bit slower because

of it, we're all for that."

A fall gallery exhibition showcasing members' art in DUMBO is in the works. That local presence is integral to the long-term goal of world domination.

"With so many amazing art colleges around here, the excitement and talent coming out of Brooklyn and the Web, it only makes sense to put those worlds together," said Anthony. "Taking that experience off the screen and into their lives is how we'll really make an impact."

For information on Brooklyn Art Project, visit www.brooklynartproject.org.



Art throbs: The Cospito brothers, shown here in their DUMBO office, launched Brooklynartproject.com in April, hoping to bring the Brooklyn arts community closer together. At press time, the Cospitos reported that their site already had 600 members.

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The Play's the Thing

with Ed Shakespeare

The fire in Big Newk still burns

DON NEWCOMBE ALWAYS COULD GO LONG. In fact, he once started both games of a doubleheader for the Dodgers — and shut out Philadelphia in the first game and pitched seven innings of the second.

Despite colon surgery over the winter, the 81-year-old "Big Newk" is still demonstrating his stamina. He looked fit at KeySpan Park on Sunday at his bobble-head doll day, felling questions smoothly, and firing back straight answers.

Newcombe only played 10 seasons in the major leagues. His star burned brightly before alcoholism and injuries extinguished it early.



Former Dodger Don Newcombe was at KeySpan Park on Sunday.

The 6-foot-4 right-hander was signed by the Branch Rickey in 1946 after several distinguished years with the Newark Eagles, a Negro League team.

He was assigned to Nashua, New Hampshire, a Dodger B-level team, because Nashua was the only United States team in the Dodgers' vast system that would accept African-Americans.

Even after Jackie Robinson broke the "color barrier" in 1947, other great black ballplayers languished. Roy Campanella, for example, stayed in the minors until 1948, and Newcombe didn't become a Dodger major leaguer until May 20, 1949.

In both cases, Campanella and Newcombe had statistics that would have warranted earlier call-ups to the majors — were it not for an unspoken policy of adding only one black player a year.

Once he arrived, Newcombe made an immediate splash, going 17-9 and winning the National League rookie-of-the-year honors as he helped the Dodgers to the pennant.

He went 19-11 and 20-9 in the next two seasons before he entered the military for two years.

His first year back, 1954, was an off year, but in 1955, he returned to form with a 20-5 record and played a key role in Brooklyn's only World Series victory. In addition, he batted .359 that year with seven homers, which is still tied as a record for National League pitchers.

Used regularly as a pinch hitter, he slugged at a .632 rate, higher than Duke Snider and trailing only Willie Mays for position players with enough at-bats to qualify for the slugging crown.

In 1956, Newcombe was 27-7, and won both the National League's Most Valuable Player and Cy Young awards.

To this day, he is only baseball player to have won the rookie of the year, MVP and Cy Young awards.

On Sunday, Newcombe was asked about his frustration over not reaching the Dodgers sooner.

"I should have made the Dodgers earlier," he said. "The reason I didn't was because of the color of my skin."

I won 19 games my second year at Nashua. In fact, I should have advanced earlier because I was 14-4 my first year at Nashua. I was perturbed about it."

Newcombe recalled another player, the great Satchel Paige, who, because of prejudice, made the majors only after his prime had passed.

"I remember Satchel Paige pitching against my team, the Newark Eagles, in 1944," recalled Newcombe.

"He [deliberately] walked the bases loaded, then he struck out the side on nine straight pitches. He was the greatest control pitcher I ever saw."

Newcombe's KeySpan Park visit also featured the unveiling of a permanent banner featuring his name and his number, 36.

Earlier in the day, Newcombe was honored with a luncheon at KeySpan.

He was asked about his feat of starting both games of a doubleheader in 1950.

"I was really removed because of my pitch count," said Newcombe with a twinkle in his eye.

"I had reached 400."

CHANNELING THE BARD

Each week, Ed Shakespeare, the bard of Brooklyn baseball, will take a page from his ancient ancestor and add a bit of poetic pentameter to all our lives. This week's contribution is called, "To Go to the Show."

On Sunday afternoon, the Hall of Fame induction happens, but I shall not go.

That day, I will be at some other game, To see the players most fans hardly know.

The Hall has style — there's no dispute to that, And Brooklyn's there — yes, Jackie, Campy, Duke.

There's Pee Wee, Sandy, yet no one to bat, To pitch. I won't be there — nor will big Newk.

With you, I'll be in Brooklyn, watching kids. Young men named Vogt, Voyles, Aspell, Bouchard.

And Reyes, Schilling, Jacobs — make their bids To reach the show — to glow in KeySpan's yard.

The Hall's events? Well, they're written, they're done. Outside, in Coney, baseball lives — that's fun.

BROOKLYN CYCLONES COVERAGE

Holy Moises! Alou is a Cyclone



Moises Alou went 1-for-4 in his Cyclones debut on Sunday. His ground ball in the first (above) drove in a run.

By Ed Shakespeare
for The Brooklyn Paper

Moises Alou, the Mets' outfielder on the disabled list since May 13 with a strained left quadriceps, made a rehab appearance with the Cyclones on Sunday, July 22.

Alou played left field for seven innings, went 1-for-4 in the Cyclones victory over the Tri-City Valley Cats.

Alou, 41, a six-time All-Star with a lifetime batting average of .301, drove in a run with a groundout in the first inning and also had a single to center in the fourth inning.

His play in the outfield was uneventful.

After his removal from the game, Alou discussed how he felt (though not entirely honestly, as it turned out).

"After being out [for] two-and-a-half months, I felt a little rusty, but I was pleased with today's work," said Alou.

Alou analyzed the difference between major league pitching and the New York-Penn league

variety.

"The pitchers throw just as fast," he said, "but they need polish."

The outfielder, the son of former major leaguer Felipe Alou and the nephew of big leaguers Marty and Jesus Alou, called his temporary return to the minors "a really check."

Brooklyn manager Edgar Alfonzo said Alou's Cyclones teammates were excited to suit up with a major leaguer.

"He's a star, and they wanted to talk to him, and he encouraged them," he said.

But the purpose of the day was Alou's condition and performance.

"He looked good," said the skipper. "He had some good at-bats, and he ran well."

Maybe too well, he ran well.

Supposed to return to the Mets on Tuesday, but he apparently strained his shoulder in his last at-bat and is now out indefinitely.

The good news, if there is any, is that perhaps another Cyclone rehab start is in Alou's near future?

Appel of our eyes

By Patrick Hickey Jr.
for The Brooklyn Paper

An Ivy Leaguer, Cyclones reliever Josh Appel is pitching smart, too.

Coming off last year's rocky season, the lefty developed a slider in the off-season and now is dominating the NY-Penn league, yielding just three runs in 13 appearances this season.

"Working on my slider was one of the smartest things I could have ever done," said the brainy University of Pennsylvania graduate and Long Island native, who has a 1.93 ERA so far.

"The slider has helped me and I think it makes things much easier for me. I'm happy, but I'm not satisfied yet."

With the slider now in an arsenal of pitches that includes a low-90s fastball, a changeup and a curveball, Appel looks like a new pitcher on the mound and has been able to put a mediocre 2006 completely behind him.

"Last year was like a crap shoot, and I didn't know what was going to happen" from one appearance to the next, said the 24-year-old. "I'm a lot more confident this year."

"I got lost in everything last year. Now I'm proving myself."

Appel thinks he can become even more dominant, but manager Edgar Alfonzo is more than pleased.

"He's helped us so much," said Alfonzo. "I have a lot of confidence bringing him into the game in the late innings. He rarely ever makes a mistake out there. He's doing an outstanding job."

And not a little. A lot.

Dem Bums' last season

To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Brooklyn Dodgers' final, dismal campaign, The Brooklyn Paper will provide a weekly reminder of the fabled Boys of Summer. Here's this week's highlight:

July 31, 1957

Dodgers 3 — Cubs 2 (Game 1)
Dodgers 2 — Cubs 1 (Game 2)

A sweep kept the Dodgers' dwindling pennant hopes alive — and reliever Ed Roebuck got both wins. Starter Don Drysdale was inconsistent in the first game, and left losing 2-1. But a Duke Snider homer made the difference. In the nightcap, Roger Craig pitched well, but was long gone by the time the Brooks erupted for two in the ninth, thanks to a Cub error.



Fournier likes to rock hat left

By Patrick Hickey Jr.
for The Brooklyn Paper

Everyone at KeySpan Park knows designated hitter Chris Fournier — but it's not because of his stocky 6-foot, 195-pound frame or a batting stance reminiscent of former Yankee Jim Leyritz either.

Wearing his hat without a bend in the bill and down towards his eyes, with a slight tilt to the left, Fournier looks more like John Travolta in "Grease" during the infamous baseball team troyant scene, than a pro baseball player capable of driving runs in at a whim.

"I've been wearing my hat that way since high school," said Fournier, who hit .369 in his senior year at George Mason University this year. "I like the flat rim with the little tilt to the left look a lot; that's just the way I rock it."



Chris Fournier

don't mind," he said. "I had a talk with him about it and he says he's comfortable like that. Personally, I don't know how he can see the ball with his hat like that. It looks uncomfortable."

Advice from Newk: Run, run, run!

By Ed Shakespeare
for The Brooklyn Paper

Don Newcombe, the great pitcher during the Dodgers' glory days had a piece of advice for the Cyclone hurler who caught his ceremonial first pitch before Sunday's game.

"He asked me if I lifted weights," said starter Edgar Ramirez, who was born 57 years after Newcombe.

"I told him that I did, and he said, 'Don't. You'll only be building up muscles that you don't need to pitch.' He said I should run instead."

And not a little. A lot.

"He told me he used to sprint from one foul line to center field and then walk to the other foul line," Ramirez said. "Then he'd sprint back to center field and walk back to the original foul line. He said to do this for an hour-and-a-half — and if I was tired, to do it for another half-hour."

Newcombe's training regimen certainly worked for him, given that he often pitched complete games and at least once started both ends of a doubleheader.

Ramirez, whose Cuban-born father moved to New York and became a Mets fan, is eager to talk to his paternal grandfather about Newcombe's advice.

"My grandfather, like my father, is a great baseball fan," said Ramirez. "I can't wait to talk to him about today."

Get scores online!

For complete coverage of every game the Brooklyn Cyclones have ever played along with all of last week's games! Visit www.brooklynpaper.com.

CYCLONES Then & Now

The 2001 Cyclones won the New York-Penn League Championship under the leadership of manager Edgar Alfonzo. Now that Fournier is back, many fans are assuming that the 2007 Cyclones will repeat the franchise's former glory. Here's how this year's team compares to that fabled squad.

2001 (Through 35 games)	2007 (Through 35 games)
Record: 24-11	Record: 25-10
Highlight of the week: Rose Peoples continued to dismantle opposing lineups, as he struck out six and allowed one unearned run in six innings on July 22. Joe Jarameta hit two solo shots and had another RBI in a 7-1 thrashing of Staten Island.	Highlight of the week: The Clones crushed Tri-City 11-2 on July 21, thanks to breakout star Will Vogt, who is batting .303 and leads the team in stolen bases with nine. He hit his first home run in the third before diving in two in the sixth.

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OUR OPINION

Marty's blind spot

BOROUGH PRESIDENT MARKOWITZ earned our "Press Release of the Week" award with an amazing bit of political legerdemain.

The Bep, a strong supporter of the Atlantic Yards project, put out an angry press release on Wednesday railing against a Metropolitan Transportation Authority plan to cover an expected \$300-million deficit next year by hiking subway fares by 10 percent.

Here's where the fancy footwork comes in. Markowitz's beloved Atlantic Yards project is largely being built over land that the MTA sold to Ratner in 2005 for a mere \$100 million — \$114 million less than the MTA's own appraisal said the development rights were worth. In a truly open market, those rights might have even gone for more.

Not only did Markowitz not object to the MTA's fare-busting giveaway, he loudly sup-

ported it, calling it "good for Brooklyn."

Good for Brooklyn? Can he still really believe that? Markowitz's blind spot to Atlantic Yards has allowed him to blissfully ignore the fact that the project has already caused Con Ed to ask for a large rate hike, already encouraged the Department of Transportation to consider wholesale changes to local traffic patterns through surrounding communities, already soaked up \$100 million more in direct city subsidies than originally budgeted — and will cost \$1 billion or more in direct and indirect subsidies. Atlantic Yards clearly shares the blame for the MTA's fiscal woes.

Of course, Markowitz's award-winning press release failed to see the connection.

"Frankly, as the City of New York considers strategies to reduce congestion, this is no time

for the MTA to be talking about raising transit fares," said Markowitz. "Our public policy must be coordinated. Fare increases discourage transit ridership, and we must oppose them at this time."

Markowitz's call for a "coordinated" approach is a joke. It was a "coordinated," back-room approach among city, state and borough officials that created Atlantic Yards in the first place — and the "congestion" and threat of a fare hike that Markowitz now decries is a direct result of these efforts.

If Borough President Markowitz can't see the connection, voters packed into increasingly crowded, increasingly costly subways and buses should send him a clear message if he considers a run for higher office.

ALL DRAWN OUT



Curtis Terrell

LETTERS

Markowitz for mayor? Our readers respond

To the editor,

It is no surprise to me that Borough President Markowitz is raising money from large developers and other big-time political donors, yet precious little from the grassroots ("Marty money misses mark," July 21). After all, this is a borough president who has spent the last six years doing the bidding of developers like Bruce Ratner, whose vision for Brooklyn is counter to many of Markowitz's own constituents.

The right of fat cats lining up to donate to Markowitz's still-undefined campaign is a disgusting reality of our current "pay-to-play" political climate.

Given the way the donations are going so far, developers will certainly have a friend at City Hall if Marty Markowitz is elected.

Tom Sutton, Sunset Park

To the editor,

I think you're wrong about Borough President Markowitz's chances about a run for mayor. You pointed out that he hasn't raised so much money, so far, but I am convinced that the minute he formally declares, his constituents will quickly respond with a wave of campaign donations.

If nothing else, Marty's tireless support for Brooklyn shows that he is one of us.

Now, how well that will play in the other four boroughs is another story! Too bad there are term limits at Borough Hall.

Ronald Ballard, Dyker Heights



To the editor,

Not for nothing, but I think you are wasting your time even bothering to cover Marty Markowitz. That man is nothing but a windbag.

If he really thinks he can win a citywide office, he should have a lead examiner.

Name withheld, Park Slope

Bill is garbage

Your opposition to a state bill that would ban the distribution of flyers makes sense to those who cherish free speech ("Throw out this bill," July 21). But many members of the legislature who support this bill have forgotten about the Bill of Rights and First Amendment.

Consider the great obstacles challengers face as candidates for public office. Incumbent members of the GOP-controlled Senate or Democratic Assembly have direct access to taxpayers' revenue to pay for numerous mailings on a regular basis.

Remember the 2005 scandal concerning then Council Speaker Gifford Miller and

his mailings to voters prior to the Mayoral primary?

Public officials on the city, state and federal level waste tens of millions of dollars each year on these mailings.

By coincidence, they accelerate in volume several months prior to election time. They might be cleverly disguised as public-service announcements, but in reality they are an extension of their re-election campaign efforts.

Underlying candidates have little money, but must count on volunteers to do door-to-door literature drops. Would this be outlawed under the bill as well?

Many Mom and Pop stores can't afford the expensive mailings or ads that incumbent members of the legislature send all year long. Small businesses provide jobs to students and seniors who deliver their flyers door to door. Why not amend this misguided bill to also allow voters the right to be dropped from elected officials' mass mailing lists as well? This would reduce litter in our mailboxes and save public funds for better uses.

Larry Penner, Great Neck, NY

Dem battle

To the editor,

I was initially inclined to dismiss Greg Kuntzman's recent column about Barack Obama as the usual ramblings of an ill-informed community newspaper editor ("Bat-

tle for the Soul of Brooklyn: Obama and Clinton fighting ZIP by ZIP," The Brooklyn Angle, July 21). But reading his piece, I quickly realized that Kuntzman was actually making a great observation about the race for the Democratic nomination (I guess even a broken clock is right twice a day).

Obama is popular in Park Slope, where I live, because he is, indeed, a truly progressive voice for reform. Hillary is popular among Brooklyn Heights Democrats because those people will make any compromise so long as they think it gets them closer to their goal of winning at all costs.

By digging into the campaign finance numbers, Kuntzman has actually brought to light this schism in our body politic, and for that I am grateful.

Here's hoping those Hillary supporters in Brooklyn Heights come to their senses and support a real Democrat, not a focus-group tested fake one.

Steve Rodriguez, Park Slope

A.R.E.A.-nation

To the editor,

I was pleased to see that the fight over that bagel store had ended favorably for everyone involved ("Bagel battle ends," July 21).

When I read your original story about Arena Baggels, I was angered that a bunch of bullies forced the store owner to change his name because they objected to anyone

using a noun that brought to mind Bruce Ratner's Atlantic Yards project.

But your articles showed me that the bagel store owner, Ravi Aggarwal, was not angry about the neighbors who demanded that he re-name the store.

He taught us all a lesson in turning the other cheek.

Nancy Melnick, Prospect Heights

Kick pots in career

To the editor,

Since when has being an elected official become a career? Elected officials are voted in by the people and they should serve the people who voted for them, not the self-interested, self-centered, sociopathic money-making machine of the corporations and developers.

I wish the liberals and the left would stop asking for affordable housing — it'll only feed right into these bastards' plans. We must demand green development and green space for housing front and back in new development.

We should honor Lady Bird Johnson by turning Atlantic Yards into meadows of native planted trees.

Our parks are becoming overcrowded. Maybe Bruce Ratner wants to declare the park's bright so his cronies in elected office can condemn them and hand them over so he can build on them.

Rhudi Eagle, Park Slope

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EAT, DRINK & BODY

Bariatric surgery is safer at NYM

New York Methodist Hospital

Bariatric surgery — procedures that modify the size and capacity of the stomach in an effort to help obese patients lose weight — is one of the fastest growing segments of elective surgeries in the U.S., climbing from just 10,000 procedures in 1995 to an estimated 200,000 this year alone.

"Obesity itself is a primary factor in several of the leading causes of death in this country, including heart disease, stroke and some cancers," said Piotr Gorecki, MD, chief of laparoscopic surgery and director of the Brooklyn Center for Advanced Laparoscopy at New York Methodist Hospital. The Center was named a "Center of Excellence" by the American Society of Bariatric Surgery for its commitment to quality and its high success rates for patient satisfaction.

By assessing patients using five key indicators, surgeons can identify those most at risk of mortality before performing the procedure. The new risk assessment tool used at NYM focuses on five critical factors: body mass index (BMI), age, gender, blood pressure and risk of developing blood clots in the lungs.

A recent study showed that being male, over the age of 45, having a BMI over 50, high blood pressure and/or a high risk of blood clots in the lungs were all associated with a higher risk of death following bariatric surgery.

"Performing this high-risk assessment prior to bariatric surgery is less of a tool to discourage the highest-risk patients from having surgery, but instead a barometer to aid the surgical team and the patient in preparing for the surgery," said Gorecki.

Patients identified as falling into four or five of the high-risk categories might require specialized monitoring or care during and after surgery, or surgeons and anesthesiologists might modify their procedures to unobscure the risks.

"The message here is that patients should not wait until their weight and health status are dire before seeking the help of a bariatric surgeon," said Gorecki.

"Clearly, bariatric surgery is a valuable option for those morbidly obese patients who have had no success with traditional weight loss programs and need medical intervention to help them achieve a healthier weight for longevity and disease prevention," said Gorecki. In fact, federally-funded health insurance policies Medicare and Medicaid have recognized bariatric surgery as a medically necessary surgical procedure for the morbidly obese.

"The long-term health risks associated with obesity itself usually far outweigh the immediate risks involved in bariatric surgery," he said. "However, finding effective ways to reduce even the smallest chance of death is a key focus of every surgery, and the new risk assessment protocol is a powerful way to further that goal."

New York Methodist Hospital offers a Surgical Weight Reduction Information Seminar and Support Group on the fourth Thursday of every month, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., in the Hospital's Executive Dining Room, 506 Sixth Street, Park Slope, Brooklyn.

The first 30 minutes includes a seminar conducted by the surgeon for individuals interested in learning about the surgery, followed by a 90-minute support group meeting open to pre and post-operative patients. For more information, please call (718) 780-7797.

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